THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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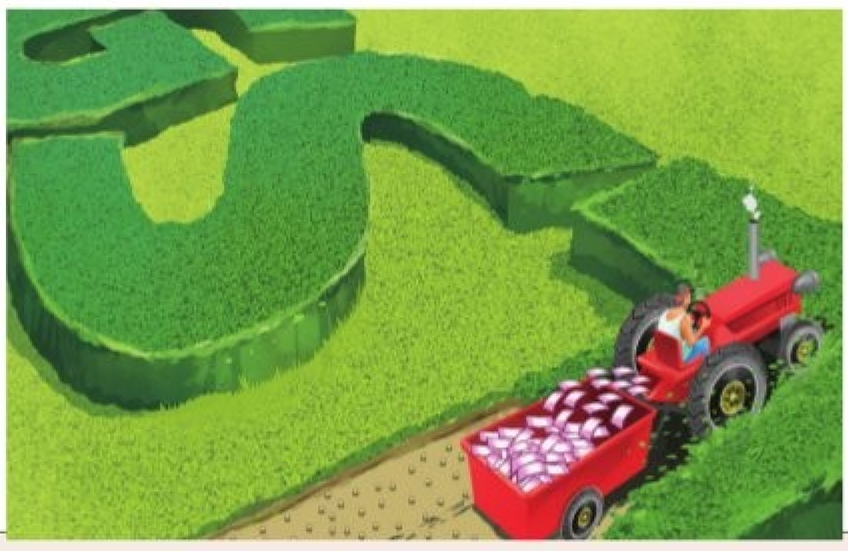

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GST MOP-UP INCREASES BY 8.5% TO ₹1.82 LAKH CRORE IN NOVEMBER

Gross GST collections increased to ₹1.82 lakh crore in November on higher revenues from domestic transactions, official data showed

OVER 11% INCREASE IN NET COLLECTION

The Central GST collection stood at ₹34,141 crore, State GST at ₹43,047 crore, Integrated GST at ₹91,828 crore, and Cess at ₹13,253 crore. Refunds worth ₹19,259 crore were issued during the month, registering a 8.9% decline over the same period last year. After adjusting for refunds, net GST collection shot up by more than 11% to ₹1.63 lakh crore

TAX FROM DOMESTIC TRANSACTIONS UP 9.4%

- GST from domestic transactions grew 9.4% to ₹1.40 lakh crore in November, while revenues from tax on imports rose 6% to ₹42,591 cr
- The month's GST mop-up is 8.5% higher than the ₹1.68 lakh crore collected during the same month last year. On a sequential basis, it is 2.6% lower than the ₹1.87 lakh crore collected in October | **P10**

₹2.1 L crore

GST COLLECTION RECORDED IN APRIL 2024 IS THE HIGHEST EVER

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

NACO

ವಿಶ್ವ ಏಡ್ಸ್ ದಿನ - 2024

'ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಸರಿಯಾದ ಮಾರ್ಗ ಅನುಸರಿಸೋಣ'

ನನ್ನ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ - ನನ್ನ ಹಕ್ಕು

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 02-12-2024 | ಸಮಯ : ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11:30ಕ್ಕೆ

ಸ್ಥಳ : ಡಿ.ದೇವರಾಜ್ ಅರಸು ಟ್ರಕ್ ಟರ್ಮಿನಲ್, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹೆಚ್‌ಐವಿ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ಐಸಿಟಿಸಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಚಿತ ಹೆಚ್‌ಐವಿ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ

"ಕ್ಷಣಿಕ ಸುಖದ ಆಸೆ, ತರಬಿರಲಿ ಜೀವನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಿರಾಶೆ"

WORLD AIDS DAY - 2024

KSAPS

'Take the rights path'

'My Health - My Right'

Date: 02.12.2024 | Time : 11:30 am

Place : D. Devaraj Urs Truck Terminal, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru

Know your HIV Status, get HIV Test for free at your nearest ICTC.

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ದಿನೇಶ್ ಗುಂಡೂರಾವ್ ಅವರು ಹೆಚ್.ಐ.ವಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರಾಂದೋಲನದಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿರುವುದು

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ.ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

"ನಮ್ಮ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಂಪರೆಯನ್ನು ಗೌರವಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಪಾಡುವುದು." ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ

ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಲಹೆಗಾಗಿ ಉಚಿತ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ AIDS Helpline 1097 ಕ್ಕೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ

Download the NACO AIDS app | GET IT ON Google Play | https://kspc.karnataka.gov.in | KarSAPS | ನಿಮ್ಮ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ, ನಮ್ಮ ಬದ್ಧತೆ

The National Disaster Response Force engaged in rescue operations using an earthmover in Puducherry on Sunday | SRIRAM R

9 killed as Fengal drowns Pondy, North TN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

SLOW-MOVING cyclonic storm 'Fengal' has brought unprecedented rainfall to Villupuram and Puducherry, where it made landfall shortly before Saturday midnight. Torrential rains lashed Villupuram, Puducherry and surrounding areas from Saturday night, resulting in the Union Territory recording 49 cm of rainfall, the highest in its history, and the automatic weather station in Mailam registering 51cm, the highest-ever recorded in Villupuram district.

According to officials, four people died in rain-related incidents in Puducherry, three in Tiruvannamalai and one each in Vellore and Chennai.

Schools in Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Dharmapuri and Salem, and both school and colleges in Tiruvannamalai, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Puducherry and Krishnagiri, will remain closed on Monday due to the rains.

The rainfall resulted in residential areas and arterial roads in Puducherry being flooded. Parts of Villupuram district were also heavily inundated, however, no deaths related to the rain have been reported there, officials said.

On Saturday, between 8.30 am and 7.30 pm, Puducherry received 9.5cm of rain, while Mailam in Villupuram district, got 13.6cm. By night, the showers began to intensify and by Sunday morning, Mailam had recorded a staggering 51cm of rainfall, followed by the Union Territory with 49cm. **MORE REPORTS: P5**

TIRUVANNAMALAI LANDSLIDE: 7 TRAPPED

At least seven persons, including five children, are feared trapped inside a house beneath a landslide near the lower slopes of the Annamalaiyar Hill in Tiruvannamalai district on Sunday. The landslide, which occurred around 4.30 pm, was triggered by incessant rainfall **P5**

Orange alert for B'luru, schools shut in Kolar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH Cyclone Fengal triggering heavy rain across north Tamil Nadu, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for Bengaluru Urban and Rural and the districts of Ramanagara and Chikkaballapura until Tuesday. Bengaluru and the surrounding areas are expected to receive over 100mm of rainfall in the next 48 hours.

Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga, Chikkamagalur, Hassan, Kodagu, Mysuru and Chamarajanagara districts are expected to receive moderate to heavy rainfall on Monday and Tuesday. The weather is expected to change drastically in the next 48 hours, and cyclonic conditions are set to bring very heavy rainfall with thundershowers to southern interior districts of Karnataka till Wednesday.

Following incessant rain across the district, Kolar Deputy Commissioner Akram Pasha declared a holiday for schools and colleges on Monday, and said the holiday would be compensated for later. He told *The New Indian Express* that the weather had changed during the course of the day, with continuous rain and a fall in temperature affecting normal life.

Meanwhile, traffic on the busy Chennai-Bengaluru highway reduced drastically, and a majority of shops in the district downed shutters early. **CONTINUED ON P2**

Donald Trump threatens BRICS with 100% tariffs

US President-elect warns against trying to undercut the US dollar

YESHI SELI @New Delhi

US President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday threatened to impose a 100% tariff on the BRICS bloc nations, which include India, if they try to undermine the US dollar. "The idea that the BRICS countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is over. We require a commitment... that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty US Dollar or, they will face 100 percent Tariffs and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy," Trump wrote on his Truth Social website.

Trump said there is "no chance" BRICS will replace the US dollar in global trade and any country that tries to make that happen "should wave goodbye to America." The statement comes in the backdrop of the BRICS summit held in October in the Russian city of Kazan discussing ways to boost non-dollar transactions and local currencies.

India is not in favour of a common BRICS currency. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has more than once clarified that there is no plan to go for a common BRICS currency.

In October, while answering a question on de-dollarisation at an event hosted by Washington-based think tank Carnegie Endowment, Jaishankar said India has no policy to target the dollar, adding that it only looks at alternative currencies while dealing with trade partners who do not have access to dollar.

In that context, Trump's message is seen as mainly targeted at Russia and China.

Donald Trump

'Unrealistic threat'

Trump's threat is unrealistic, think tank The Global Trade Research Initiative said on Sunday. It said tariffs of this scale would harm the US consumers only as it would push prices on imports, disrupt global trade, and risk retaliation from key partners

The topic had come up during the recent summit of the BRICS, where Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the US of "weaponising" the dollar to target rivals. "It's not us who refuse to use the dollar," Putin had said at the time. "But if they don't let us work, what can we do? We are forced to search for alternatives."

Russia is pushing for the creation of a new payment system that would offer an alternative to the global bank messaging network, SWIFT, and allow Moscow to dodge Western sanctions and trade with partners.

BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation comprising nine countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates.

(With inputs from agencies)

Trump picks Kash Patel as new FBI chief

AGENCIES

US President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday tapped Indian American Kahyap 'Kash' Patel, 44, to head the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

If confirmed, Patel would replace Christopher Wray, who was chosen by Trump in his first term as president in 2017. FBI directors are appointed to 10-year terms to insulate the bureau from politics.

A fierce Trump loyalist and a vocal critic of 'deep state', Patel is expected to cut down the FBI's footprint. In a recent interview,

he said he would close down the FBI's headquarters in Washington and "reopen it the next day as a museum of the deep state". He said he send the 7,000-odd employees working in that building across America to chase criminals.

Patel served in several posts during Trump's first term, including as Chief of Staff to Secretary of Defense.

A son of Indian immigrants, Patel has commented on the developments in India. Earlier this year, he had voiced support for the Ayodhya Ram Temple.

He has also alleged there is a disinformation campaign in Washington targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW BRAHMOS CHIEF CHALLENGED IN TRIBUNAL

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

IN a rare instance, the appointment of BrahMos Aerospace chief has been challenged in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Hyderabad. The leadership dispute comes at a time the organisation is working on the country's biggest defence supply order to the Philippines.

The crisis stems from the appointment of Jaiteerth R Joshi as Chief Executive Officer, a decision contested by Sivasubramanyam Nambi Naidu, alleging he was superseded during the selection.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

The case was filed on November 29 and the first hearing took place on November 30. According to sources, the CAT has sought a detailed response from DRDO within four weeks and has scheduled the next hearing on December 30. The petitioner has made DRDO and Joshi as respondents.

Sources said that Naidu, a Distinguished Scientist, is seven years senior to Joshi and has served as an Outstanding Scientist since 2017, a position Joshi currently holds. With only three years left in service compared to Joshi's six, Naidu's plea is to consider his seniority and experience.

Jaiteerth R Joshi

The organisation is currently engaged in advanced negotiations with three to four countries, with the next stages of deliveries to the Philippines also coming up under a $375 million contract. These negotiations are critical for establishing India as a reliable defence exporter and the deliberations demand steady leadership to avoid delays.

On the domestic front, the Army and Air Force are in the midst of more BrahMos procurements. However, leadership ambiguity raises concerns about meeting these strategic priorities.

Alexander Maksichev, co-director of Brahmos Aerospace, recently said active discussions are on with countries such as Indonesia, Vietnam and United Arab Emirates for potential contracts of this missile system.

The dispute pits two accomplished scientists against each other. Naidu, a key figure in India's Prithvi missile programme, is recognised for his managerial expertise at Bharat Dynamics Limited, where he oversaw large-scale missile production. His experience aligns with BrahMos' operational and export ambitions.

In contrast, Joshi is known for his contribution to the Long-Range and Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (LRSAM and MRSAM).

NET GAINS FOR SHUTTLERS LAKSHYA & SINDHU

SEN-SATIONAL RUN

- Lakshya Sen won the Syed Modi International men's singles title in Lucknow
- **The 23-year-old, who was the No 1 seed, lived up to his billing. He won all his matches in straight games**
- After narrowly missing out on an Olympic medal in Paris, this is a welcome result for him

THREE CHEERS

- PV Sindhu bagged the women's singles crown with an equally impressive run
- **She beat China's Wu Luo Yu to lift the trophy for the third time, having also won in 2017 & 2022**
- Form has evaded her in recent times and this win could spur her to rediscover her old touch | **P11**

EXPRESS READ

Iskcon holds sankirtan for persecuted B'desh Hindus

Bengaluru: Following the arrest of Sri Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, a prominent devotee leader and spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sanatan Jagaran Mancha, by Dhaka police, Iskcon organised a Global Sankirtan across the world in solidarity with the persecuted Hindus of Bangladesh, on Sunday. Iskcon Bengaluru also organised a peaceful sankirtan on Hare Krishna Hill to show support for the persecuted minorities in Bangladesh. The event saw participation from renowned spiritual leaders, devotees and well-wishers | **P5**

Seven Maoists killed in police encounter in TG

U MAHESH @ Mulugu

SEVEN Maoists were killed in an alleged encounter with the Telangana Police in the Chalpaka forest area of the state's Mulugu district near the Chhattisgarh border on Sunday morning.

Acting on a tip-off about Maoist movement, a search party comprising Greyhounds, a special force unit of the Telangana Police, launched a combing operation in the area.

Speaking to the media persons on Sunday, Superintendent of Police P Shabarish said the police encountered a group of 12 to 13 Maoists in olive green uniforms armed with weapons. Despite being warned to surrender, the Maoists opened fire, triggering a retaliatory response in which seven Maoists were killed, the police claimed.

The dead were identified as members of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), including JMWP DVC and State Committee member Kursam Mangu alias Bhadru, and Egolapu Mallaiah alias Madhu, a Divisional Committee member and Area Commander.

Other slain Maoists included Area Committee members Mussaki Deval and Mussaki Jamuna, as well as cadres Jaisingh, Kishore and Kamesh. The police claimed to have recovered two AK-47 rifles, one .303 rifle apart from one shotgun, one country-made revolver, a G3, kit bags, and literature from the encounter spot.

The encounter comes amid heightened security and intensified combing efforts in the Maoist-affected areas of Mulugu district after the recent killing of two tribal men in Penugolu village by Maoists, branding them as police informers.

Shabarish stated that the combing operations will continue in the forest areas of Eturunagaram, Wazeedu, Peruru, and Venkatapuram.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

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ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 02.12.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana
Ritu: Hemanth • Masa: Margasira • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Prathami 11.42 am
Nakshatra: Jyeshta 3.35 pm • Moon in Dhanur Rashi • Rahukaala: 07.30 am to 09.00 am
Gulikakala: 01.30 pm to 03.00 pm • Yamaganda: 10.30 am to 12.00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 23°C
FORECAST
Isolated tstorms. Overcast

Sunrise 06.26 am
Sunset 17.51 pm
Moonrise 07.16 am
Moonset 06.44 pm

BBMP collects record ₹4,284 cr as property tax in 2024-25

OTS scheme encouraged defaulters to clear longstanding arrears

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has achieved a new milestone by collecting Rs 4,284 crore as property tax for the year 2024-25. This proves to be a significant leap as compared to previous years, with the civic body having collected Rs 2,300 crore in 2022-23 and Rs 2293.81 crore in 2023-24. Among the factors that helped improve the property tax collection is the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme. Under the scheme, property owners were excluded from compound interest and penalties, thus bringing down the overall arrears of property tax significantly

While presenting the 2024 budget, the BBMP had aimed for a property tax collection of Rs 6,000 crore. However, BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Girinath revised this goal to Rs 5,200 crore, expressing confidence that the target will be met by the end of March 2025.

Data shared by BBMP shows it collected Rs 4,284.16 crore from April 1 to November 30. Mahadevapura zone topped the list with Rs 1,148 crore, followed by East zone with Rs 710 crore and South zone with Rs 606 crore. BBMP West zone collected Rs 483 crore, Bommanahalli zone collected Rs 418 crore, Yelahanka zone with Rs 408 crore, Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone collected Rs 335 crore and Dasarahalli zone managed to collect Rs 136 crore.

The significant rise in property tax collection is attributed to the One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, which encouraged many defaulters to clear longstanding arrears and revise self-assessment of properties. The scheme which was launched nine months ago, was extended twice. With the scheme ending on November 30, property tax defaulters have to pay a fine and interest while clearing their pending dues.

Further, BBMP officials said that they have served property attachment notices to owners and lamented that many failed to utilise the benefits of the OTS scheme. With the OTS period ending, the pending dues will only multiply for defaulters.

Officials warned that they would go ahead by taking action and reminded that the civic body is empowered to take stringent action against defaulters which include sealing and mortgaging properties.

Property tax collected from April 1-Nov 30

Mahadevapura zone	₹1,148 crore
East zone	₹710 crore
South zone	₹606 crore
West zone	₹483 crore
Bommanahalli zone	₹418 crore
Yelahanka zone	₹408 crore
Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone	₹335 crore
Dasarahalli zone	₹136 crore

Significant rise in property tax collection is attributed to the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme, which encouraged many defaulters to clear longstanding arrears and revise self-assessment of properties

Sources

FOR THE LOVE OF ART

Visitors at an art exhibition conducted as part of BLR Hubba 2024 at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA.

AIR INDIA EXPRESS LAUNCHES DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM B'LURU TO PORT BLAIR

Bengaluru: Air India Express on Sunday (Dec 1) launched direct daily flights between Bengaluru and Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair). The inaugural flight took off from Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru at 10.50 am. An official release said, "It will offer the Garden City a seamless connection to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, known for its stunning beaches and rich natural beauty." It will leave KIA at 10.50 am and arrive at Sri Vijaya Puram at 1.15 pm. It will leave Sri Vijaya Puram and at 1.50 pm and arrive at KIA at 4.20 pm.

BBMP starts tracking 85 tree-cutting agencies

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

WITH over 85 private agencies openly advertising their services of felling and pruning trees across Bengaluru, the BBMP Forest Division has begun to track each one of them, and has also issued a notice to local search engine, Justdial, to inform its clients who provide these services to get the forest department's permission, before embarking any such endeavours.

Speaking to TNSE, BLG Swamy, Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP, said there have been complaints that some private agencies are resorting to cutting of trees, without bringing the matter to the notice of range forest officers of the concerned zones. They are also allegedly collecting money for the service from the public.

"To end this illegality, we have started to check the veracity of the agencies, ascertaining if they are registered with the BBMP in the past to carry out such tasks, follow protocols, and others. The BBMP forest department has written to Justdial, asking it to check with it clients about mandatory registration with the BBMP forest division for cutting trees," said Swamy.

Urban conservationist, who is popularly known as the 'Tree Doctor', Vijay Nishanth, said some commercial business outlets, for want of clear visibility of their establishments, resort to getting rid of trees, which tend to block the view. "Since their act is illegal, they do not follow compensatory afforestation, therefore reducing the city's green cover," he opined.

"The felling of trees for any purpose has to come before the BBMP forest officers, and if the number of trees to be felled is 50, then it will come before the tree committee. Since many owners and shopkeepers want one or two trees removed from their premises, they will not bother to contact tree officers of the BBMP for its removal. This has led such agencies to flourish, through illegal tree-felling," said Nishanth.

He added that recently, a jewellery shop owner in Jayanagar had axed a full-grown mahogany tree for better visibility, and many owners in BBMP limits assume that the trees in their houses or complex premises belong to them, and they are free to cut them at will. "According to the Tree Preservation Act, any tree on government or private land belongs to the forest department, and owners must get permission from the BBMP tree officers, if they wish to remove that tree, failing which, they can be penalised," warned Nishanth.

College fee regulation panel asks for proper infra

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

THE Fee Regulation Committee (FRC), which has started hearing complaints from aggrieved students from unaided professional colleges, and with the number of complaints rising, has pointed to a shortage of staff and basic infrastructure.

The FRC is hearing appeals of students pertaining to professional colleges, demanding fee in excess of what is decided by government departments and the committee. In a recent case, the FRC asked a college to refund Rs 2.50 lakh to 21 students within 10 days.

"We have asked for appointing permanent staff with proper infrastructure in place to ensure the committee's functioning does not get interrupted in the absence of a chairman. There have been instances of delays in appointments, like a four-month gap in the appointment of a new committee after the term of Justice Subhash Adi ended, affecting the hearing of cases," said a FRC member.

Former High Court judge and FRC chairman Justice Srinivas Gowda was appointed committee chairman in October 2023 and his tenure was renewed in October 2024.

He said the academic year starts from April and CET hearing starts in May. Appointing committee members in October does not help as it should be ideally done in January, so that financial and academic details of colleges are assessed and the fee prescribed by the government is calculated and fixed.

Justice Gowda added that the committee should have at least a three-year tenure, so there is continuity in hearing of cases and maintaining college details.

The members said that this academic year, the committee has received around 300 complaints, 80 of them from October 2024. The member said complaints are few but the number of students appealing is more; one complaint was registered by 80 students from the same college.

'Don't confine protests to one place'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HORAATADA Hakkigagi Janandolana, a coalition of trade unions, women's rights, queer rights, slum and Dalit organisations, and civil liberties groups demanded the withdrawal of the Licensing and Regulation of Protests, Demonstrations, and Protest Marches (Bengaluru City) Order, 2021, which confines protests to Freedom Park.

Protests, once a vibrant expression of democratic dissent across Bengaluru, are now designated to only Freedom Park, effectively silencing any dialogue with the state, said representatives of the Janandolana in a press release.

Writer and thinker Aakar Patel stated that a "license" to protest transforms a fundamental right into a privilege. He said that Jantar Mantar in New Delhi has become a graveyard for protests and warned against allowing Bengaluru's Freedom Park to meet a similar fate. He urged authorities to prioritise traffic solutions and better public transport, instead of restricting protests.

Akkai Padmashali, an activist addressed the intersections of caste, gender, and sexuality in the fight for justice. Stating that if someone looks at her in a wrong way, Akkai questioned, "Should my justice lie only with the courts and nowhere else? Similarly, when a judge makes a sexist comment, where do we go for justice then?," questioned Akkai batting for the necessity of public protests to challenge systemic oppression.

Dip in temp across K'taka

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE IMD has forecast a dip in temperatures across Karnataka, including Bengaluru. Throughout the week, Bengaluru's skies are likely to remain cloudy, with maximum temperatures expected around 22 degree Celsius, and minimum temperatures near 19 degree Celsius. Bengaluru is expected to receive light to moderate rainfall throughout the week. In the past three days, minimum temperature in Bengaluru Urban and Rural areas has ranged from 16 degree Celsius to 19 degree Celsius, signalling early onset of winter. IMD scientists told TNIE that the weather may feel cooler than the actual temperature due to factors like rain and humidity.

Bengaluru's typical winter lasts from mid-December to early February, but this year, winter has arrived early and is expected to be more intense than usual, IMD officials said.

18-yr-old among youngest Indians to get commercial pilot licence

FIROZ ROZINDAR @Vijayapura

SAMAIRA Hullur, an 18-year-old from Vijayapura city, has now carved a niche for herself in the aviation industry by arguably becoming the youngest Indian to hold a Commercial Pilot License (CPL). Daughter of businessman Amin Hullur, she has made a mark in the aviation sector by getting a CPL at a very young age.

Samaira's aviation journey began with an intensive six-month training programme at Vinod Yadav Aviation Academy. Under the mentorship of academy founders Vinod Yadav and Captain Tapesh Kumar, she successfully cleared all CPL exams on her first attempt. "The training was rigorous but with the constant support, it became easy. All credit for my achievement goes to the guidance and support of Captain Tapesh Kumar and Vinod Yadav," said Samaira.

Giving an insight about her training aspect, she said she had undergone six mandatory courses which include flying a small aircraft. She said that she also gained 200 hours of flying experience. She said, this is a new thing for Vijayapura as no girl has cleared the exam. "Now, I am the youngest commercial pilot in the country," she said.

After excelling in her ground school and written exams, Samaira moved to Carver Aviation Academy in Baramati, Maharashtra, to undertake seven months of flight training. The academy's comprehensive and demanding programme honed her skills and prepared her for real-world challenges in aviation. "Carver Aviation Academy not only strengthened my technical expertise but also broadened my understanding of the limitless possibilities in aviation," she said. Samaira credits her inspiration to Captain Tapesh Kumar, who himself holds the record of becoming India's youngest captain at 25 years old.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

02ND December : We're now heading into a new phase of a special lunar cycle, and the next period will be underway soon. This is traditionally an excellent time for taking a rest, and people who insist on living a high energy lifestyle may end up feeling the worse for it. Those who put their feet up could prosper!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You should be a little more emotional than usual, but then you'll also be more confident. There are plusses and minuses in the present situation. For one thing you might inadvertently offend other people by ignoring their wishes. But for another, you can impress all and sundry with your sheer determination to succeed.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
That profoundly gentle and sympathetic planet Venus now offers you its protection, rather like a sort of cosmic armour. Its effect may not be to shield you from difficult problems, but it will give you the optimism and confidence to brush such irritations aside.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It's an awkward moment, no doubt. For some reason the planets just refuse to play ball. No matter what steps you take to ensure that people tell you what's going on, it won't make much difference. You see, even if you know the facts, you still won't understand why people are behaving as they are.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
I know you know it's true, but I'd still like to remind you that life is what you make it. The only sound advice any astrologer can give you is to wake up and catch up. The world has moved on overnight and certain of your arrangements or attitudes may now be well past their sell-by date.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You don't have to compete to be noticed today. If the Moon and Jupiter do their work you need only wave your hand for others to fall into line. If you're planning the next stage in your ambitions, then pin your hopes on the middle of the day, the time when your most private aspirations could receive a public airing.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You've got plenty of get-up-and-go, but colleagues and other conditions seem to get in the way. You face the prospect of floundering around like a beached whale, but the way to avoid confusion is simply to defer all dubious activities, so if you have any doubts whatsoever, hang on for a few days.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Sometimes you love to be sentimental, but now you are likely to find yourself in a position where you simply have to be business-like about your feelings. You may have to put serious and intimate encounters on hold while you pursue your social goals in a frivolous manner.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Apparent difficulties and dramas may be far from distressing. In fact, this looks like a moment of rare professional power, so if you're anxious to get on at work, push yourself forward and take the resulting friction in your stride. You can always charm your way out of a tight corner!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
If you've got things to talk about, don't spend too much time going over old ground. You must be practical, on the other hand, and this means that you should pay due deference to the way certain matters were done in the past. Not everything your ancestors did is to be so easily dismissed!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
The Moon is coursing through vital and varied areas of your chart, so busy times at work look set to continue for a few days yet. Right now, though, you may glimpse the prospect of financial reward. Joint finances seem to be important and great good fortune may come via close partners.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
There are many important decisions involving your personal life, but that doesn't rule out the prospect of having fun along the way. Indeed, today you should be able to combine business with pleasure as never before! A new social contact may even guide you to success in a public ambition in the future.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
There probably won't be much time left over after you've finished all your tasks and chores, but you can enliven the day by pursuing your own desires above the requirements of colleagues and dependants. But you might have to decide to ignore one particular problem, at least, just for now.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

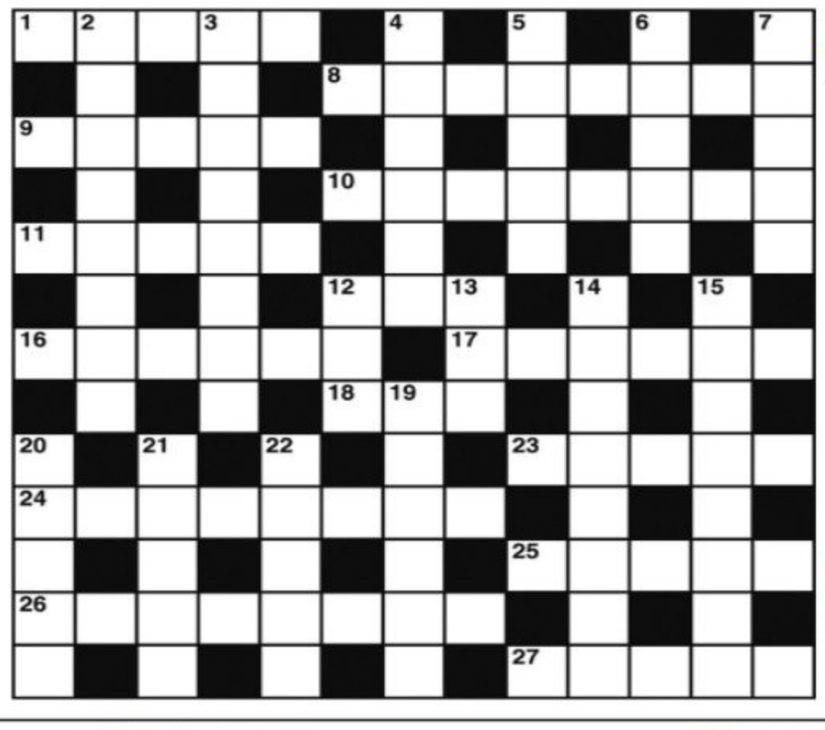
9		1		8			4	
	5					1		
	3					6	5	
	6		8	9				
8				1				6
				2	3		1	
	1	4					2	
		7					6	
	8			7		4		1

3	5	7	1	8	6	9	4	2
8	4	9	3	5	2	1	7	6
6	1	2	9	4	7	3	8	5
1	9	3	7	2	5	8	6	4
7	8	6	4	1	3	5	2	9
4	2	5	8	6	9	7	3	1
2	7	1	6	9	8	4	5	3
5	3	4	2	7	1	6	9	8
9	6	8	5	3	4	2	1	7

SU DO KU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Explosive device found on the beach (5)
8 Foresee trouble as vines age (8)
9 Religious debt put in the postscript (5)
10 Material for a cracker (8)
11 Yank shows courage (5)
12 Go wrong - or right after some hesitation (3)
16 Mend or replace so that it's up-to-date (6)
17 A prayer of three short words (6)
18 A divine increase (3)
23 Cares about some land (5)
24 High speed transport (8)
25 Assumed to be back in bed (3,2)
26 Words which carry conviction? (8)
27 Pack some material (5)

DOWN
2 Textile manufacturer's bequest to his son? (8)
3 Power-driven craft uncle has designed (8)
4 One stays in bed when working (6)
5 Halts but still makes progress (5)
6 Breakfast food firm breaks an embargo (5)
7 Hazards of drivers and divers (5)
12 Set out from the Senate to see her (3)
13 An angler uses it to catch perch (3)
14 Tell wrongly (8)
15 It won't be found in the pack (4,4)
19 Failing to change sides (6)
20 I'd say it wrongly making a bloomer (5)
21 Eccentric cheerleader at the head of column (5)
22 Somehow raise a sign on high (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Press gangs, 6 Opus, 10 Orate, 11 Hair tonic, 12 Sanskrit, 13 Ripen, 15 Pleased, 17 Rhubarb, 19 Rankles, 21 Canters, 22 Nicer, 24 Armenian, 27 Imprecise, 28 Dodge, 29 Even, 30 Undeterred.

Down: 1 Plot, 2 El Alamein, 3 Steps, 4 Adhered, 5 Glister, 7 Pin-up, 8 Second-best, 9 Starturn, 14 Apprentice, 16 Salaries, 18 Alexander, 20 Sea lion, 21 Compere, 23 Copse, 25 Nudge, 26 Tend.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

FELAB

YNAHD

SNIDGI

TWHISC

I can't believe how horrible this looks!
The valley is gone forever.
THE GARBAGE DUMP HAD TURNED THE BEAUTIFUL VALLEY INTO A ---
Get the free JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AGAIN GABBY FILLET EXTENT
Answer: He hit a home run on the first pitch without — BATTING AN EYE

A man was trampled to death by a wild elephant when he, along with forest officials, was trying to chase away the tusker at Seethuru in NR Pura taluk of Chikkamagaluru. The deceased Keregadde Umesh (56) was the vice-president of the Madivala Machideva Sangha

ON HIS WAY TO THIRD WEDDING, MAN HELD FOR KILLING 2ND WIFE

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

IN a bizarre tale of multiple marriages, a 39-year-old man from Bihar murdered his second wife and went on to marry a third, passing her off as the wife he had killed. The couple was arrested by Bengaluru Rural police when they were on their way to court to register the marriage in Bihar.

Mohammed Naseem, a painter from Muzaffarpur district in Bihar, lived with his second wife Rumesh Khatoon in Sarjapur. The couple had two children.Police suspect that Naseem may have also killed his first wife, mother of his six children, and later made it look like suicide.

Recently, Naseem began questioning Rumesh's character after she refused to have physical relations with him, and accused her of having an illicit affair. The couple often argued and the fights escalated, until Naseem killed her in the second week of November. He tied her body, hands and legs with cables and dumped her naked body in a drain, far from their house. The body was found a day later.

Naseem then took his eight children to Rumesh's family home in Bihar, and told them she had run away with another man. He asked Rumesh's parents to take responsibility of the children, and warned them not to file a complaint.

CK Baba, SP, Bengaluru Rural, said that police, who had traced Naseem's whereabouts, were suspicious of him from the beginning. "Naseem decided to marry a third time and proposed to Saira (name changed). He told her that people were spreading false rumours about him because they did not want him to be happy. He claimed he was loyal but his wife had left him. Naseem also instructed Saira to identify herself as Rumesh if anyone questioned her," police said.

When police arrived in Bihar, Saira tried to outsmart them by identifying herself as Rumesh. "She pretended to be Rumesh to support Naseem's claim that his wife was still alive. However, police contacted Saira's sister, whom she had called recently, and found that Saira was lying," said SP Baba.

While Naseem and Saira were on their way to court to register their marriage, police arrested Naseem. They are now verifying his claim that his first wife died by suicide, as they suspect he may have killed her and staged it as a suicide afterward.

MORE POWER!

Specially-abled people take out a bike rally in front of Vidhana Soudha ahead of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (December 3) in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

IPS probationer dies in accident near Hassan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hassan

A trainee IPS officer was killed after the vehicle in which he was travelling rammed into a roadside house near Kittane village of Hassan taluk on Mysuru-Hassan NH-373 on Sunday evening.

According to the police, the accident occurred when **Harsh Bhardhan** (25), from Madhya Pradesh, a 2023 batch IPS officer from Karnataka cadre, was heading to Hassan to report to duty as Additional Superintendent of Police at SP's office. The driver reportedly lost control over the vehicle in a slope and hit the house. The vehicle overturned as the front tyre burst. A seriously injured Harsh was shifted to private hospital in Hassan where he succumbed to severe injury in his head at 9 pm.

The vehicle was completely mangled. Harsh hailed from Deosar in Madhya Pradesh. He underwent five weeks training at the Police Academy in Mysuru and intelligence wing. The tragedy struck him when he was coming to Hassan on two weeks training. He had to report as a trainee ASP at the SP's office on Monday.

Manjegowda, the driver, escaped with minor injuries.

RPF's Nanhe Farishte rescues 253 kids on trains, platforms

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

A total of 253 children, including 49 girls, have been rescued from potential exploitation by the anti-child trafficking unit of the Railway Protection Force in 2024. This special force, 'Nanhe Farishte,' was set up in May 2018 across Indian Railways to ensure the safety of vulnerable children travelling by train. With December just beginning, the number is bound to increase when compared to last year. From January to December 2023, a total of 237 children, including 50 girls, were rescued.

Additional Divisional Railway Manager (ADRM), Bengaluru, Parikshith Mohanpuria said, "These 253 children, in need of care and protection, were intercepted and safeguarded from potential exploitation." A majority of these children would, otherwise, have been exploited for child labour, prostitution and organ trade.

Another railway official said that some children would have taken the trains by their own after minor tiffs with their parents or due to poor performance in examinations.

Senior divisional security commissioner, RPF, Bengaluru, Shreyans Chinchwade, said, "Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police along with Bachapan Bachao Andolan is continuously monitoring the trains and station premises for safe movement of children. Any child in contact with Railways is always taken care of throughout the country. Along with that Railway Help line 139 is available to notify any children in distress within Railway premises."

Nanhe Farishte team in action in Bengaluru | EXPRESS

Elaborating on the steps taken after the rescue, Mohanpuria said the District Child Protection Units (DCPU) and designated NGOs are contacted by the RPF to provide child-friendly counselling. "The rescued children are handed over to the DCPU and NGOs under proper acknowledgment, who then refer the cases to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC)," he said. The CWC, after thorough counselling, determines whether the rescued child will be reunited with their parents or sent to a rehabilitation centre for further care and protection.

The RPF Bengaluru Division operates eight dedicated Anti-Human Trafficking Units , one each at KSR Bengaluru City junction, Yesvantpur, Bengaluru Cantonment, Sir M Visvesvaraya station, Baiyappanahalli, Bangarpet, Mandya, Dharmapuri, and Hindupur each comprising one young officer and two staff members (one male and one female), he said.

EXPRESS READ

Case against Tulu producer Arun Rai on charges of cheating bizman

BENGALURU: An FIR has been registered against film producer Arun Rai, whose movie 'Jeetige' won the National Film Award in the Tulu category, at the RMC Yard police station for allegedly cheating a businessman of over Rs 9 crore. The police said that a case has been registered against Arun and four of his aides for cheating Vardaraj, a businessman from Dakshina Kannada. Vardaraj, who suffered a loss of Rs 25 crore during the Covid-19 pandemic, met Arun at a hotel in Yeshwantpur. Rai claimed to have many business ventures, including film production and investments in companies in India and abroad. Vardaraj borrowed Rs 9 crore and gave it to Arun, who promised him a share of the profits from his upcoming movie. However, Arun fled, the police said.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Shantinagara, Kengal Hanumanthaiah Road, Bengaluru-560 027
Bid No: BMRCL/DGM(C)/PD/Parking Tender/Reach-5/No.48/2024-25 Date: 30.11.2024

TENDER CUM AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Subject: AWARD LICENSE FOR OPERATING PARKING LOTS AT - REACH-5 OF NAMMA METRO STATIONS.

BID SCHEDULE

Sale of bid document	02.12.2024 to 02.01.2025
Tender Cost	Rs.5000/- by way of DD drawn in favor of BMRCL payable at Bangalore.
Address for purchase	BMRCL, 3rd Floor, BMTC Complex, Shantinagara, K.H Road, Bengaluru 560 027
Pre-Bid meeting	02.01.2025 at 3:00 P.M.
Bid Submission Due Date	07.01.2025 up to 3:00 P.M.
Opening Tender	07.01.2025 at 3:30 P.M.

Brief details of the tender terms and conditions are uploaded in the BMRCL website.
Sd/- Deputy General Manager (C), BMRCL, Bengaluru.

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ISRAEL-IRAN CONFRONTATION
A FRAGILE CEASEFIRE
BEFORE A WIDER WAR?
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DECODED BY
NEENA GOPAL
IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

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RELIANCE Asset Reconstruction

RELIANCE ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: R-Tech Park, 11 th Floor, North Side, Opp. Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai- 400063.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF SECURED ASSETS

Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (RARC), a Trustee of "Reliance ARC CUB 2014 (1) Trust" is an assignee and a secured creditor of below mentioned borrower by virtue of Assignment Agreement dated 19.05.2017 executed with City Union Bank Limited.
The undersigned in exercise of powers conferred under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 hereby give notice to public in general that the below mentioned property shall be sold by way of "online e-auction" for recovery of dues. The properties shall be sold strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "NO RECOURSE" basis apart from other terms mentioned below.

Name of Borrower/Guarantors	Outstanding dues as on dt.27-11-2024	Date of Possession
1. M/s. UNIVERSAL CONSULTANTS, **Rep by its Proprietor Mr. M Ravikumar,** No. S -717, 7th Floor, South Block, Manipal Centre, Dickenson Road, Bangalore 560 042. **2. Mr. M.RAVIKUMAR, Proprietor M/s. Universal Consultants** S/o. Mr B V Murthy,Residing at No.251, 1st Main. 5th Block, Banshankari 3rd Stage, Chennammanakere Acchukattu, Vidyapetta Layout, Bangalore 560 085 **3. Mr B V Murthy,S/o.Venkataramanappa** Residing at No.251, 1st Main. 5th Block, Banshankari 3rd Stage, ChennammanakereAcchukattu, Vidyapetta Layout, Bangalore 560 085. **4.M. Vishalakshi W/o. Mr. B V Murthy** Residing at No.251, 1st Main. 5th Block, Banshankari 3rd Stage, ChennammanakereAcchukattu, Vidyapetta Layout, Bangalore 560 085 Also property situated at: **5.** Site bearing No.14,Khaneshumari No.242/75/123456/14 Formed out of erstwhile Sy.No.75/6 of Rajapura Village JiginiHobli, Anekal Taluk,Bangalore District 562 106	**Rs. 2,01,81,435.56/- (Rupees Two Crore One Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty Five and Paise Fifty Six Only)**	**03.10.2024**

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY	RESERVE PRICE	EMD AMOUNT
All that Piece and parcel of Residential Site bearing no.14,Khaneshumari No.242/75/123456/14 formed out of erstwhile Sy No.75/6 of Rajapura Village, JiginiHobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, in the residential layout called as "Apna Aangan" duly converted for non-agricultural residential uses and purposes vide conversion Order No.ALN.SR(A) 364/04-05,dated 06.12.2004 issued by the Assistant Commissioner, Bangalore Sub- Division (South),measuring East to West 50ft and North to South 30ft totally measuring 1500Sq.ft and bounded on East by: Road,West by:Site No.43,North by: Site No.15, South by: Site No.13.	**Rs. 72,00,000/- (Rupees Seventy-Two Lakhs Only**	**Rs. 7,20,000/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Twenty Thousand Only)**

Details Of Auction Events: -
Inspection of Property :08.01.2025From 11.00A.M to 01.00 P.M
Last date for bid submission : 09.01.2025
Date of e-auction :10.01.2025Between 3 PM to 4 PM (with Auto extension of 5 minutes each) Each)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF E-AUCTION SALE
1) The property shall not be sold below the reserve price and sale is subject to the confirmation by Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (RARC) as secured creditor. The properties shall be sold strictly on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "NO RECOURSE".
2) E-auction will be held through RARC's approved service provider M/s ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED at website: https://www.Auctionbazaar.com (web portal of ARCA EMART PRIVATE LIMITED). E-auction tender documents containing online e-auction bid form along with General Terms and Conditions of online e-auction sale are available in websites: www.rarcl.com and https://www.Auctionbazaar.com intending bidders may download relevant documents.
3) The intending bidders are required to have a valid email id as the participation ID and password by e-auction agency shall be communicated at their e-mail id only.
4) Intending bidders have to submit their BID in the prescribed format with EMD remittance details along with self-attested KYC documents (PAN, AADHAR card etc) and the same shall be submitted to Authorized Officer of Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (RARC) at 6th Floor, Khivraj Complex II, No.477-482, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai 600035 or by email to Sathish.nagaraja@relianceada.com after which the participation ID and password shall be communicated at their email only. Last date of submission of Bid Form is on 09.01.2025. The bid form or EMD received late for any reason whatsoever shall not be entertained. Bid without EMD and Bid below the reserve price shall be rejected summarily. Certificate of Sale will be issued in favour of successful bidder / bidders only and RARC will not entertain add and replacement of new bidder / bidders.
5) Bidder has to mandatorily give undertaking under Section 29A of Indian Bankruptcy Code, 2016
6) Neither RARC nor the service provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure on the part of the bidder on account of network disruptions. Toward off such incidents, bidders are advised to make all necessary arrangements such as alternative power back-ups etc.
7) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be deposited through RTGS/NEFT fund transfer to Current Account No: 510909010008171, Name of the Bank:City Union Bank Limited, Branch: Khar (Mumbai), Name of the Beneficiary: Reliance ARC CUB (1) Trust 2014, IFSC Code CIUB0000084.Please note that the Cheque/Demand Draft shall not be accepted towards EMD.
8) The Bids below reserve price and/or without EMD amount shall not be accepted. Bidders may improve their further bid amount in multiple of Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only). In case sole bidder, bidder has to improve his bid minimum by one incremental.
9) The successful bidder shall pay 25% of the bid amount/sale price (including earnest money already paid) immediately after declaration of successful bidder. The successful bidder shall deposit balance 75% of the bid amount/sale price within 15 days from declaration of successful bidder.
10) If successful bidder fails to deposit sale price as stated above, all deposits including EMD shall deemed to be forfeited without any further notice. However, extension of further reasonable period for making payment of balance 75% may be allowed and shall be at the sole discretion of Authorized Officer.
11) The EMD amount of unsuccessful bidders will be returned without interest, after the closure of the E-auction sale proceedings.
12) The particulars given by the Authorized officer are stated to the best of his knowledge, belief and records. Authorized officer shall not be responsible for any error, mis-statement or omission etc.
13) The undersigned Authorized Officer has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale or modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice or assigning any reasons.
14) The bidders should make discreet enquiries as regards charges/encumbrances on the property and should satisfy themselves about the title, extent, quality of the property before submitting their bid. No claim of whatsoever nature regarding charges, encumbrances over the property and any other matter etc., shall be entertained after submission of the online bid.
15) Any arrears, dues, taxes, charges whether statutory or otherwise including stamp duty/registration fees on sale of property shall be borne by the purchaser only.
16) For further details, contact Mr. N.Satish Consultant, Mobile No- 99406 55750 Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. at above mentioned address.
17) The sale certificate shall be issued after receipt of entire sale consideration and confirmation of sale by secured creditor. The sale certificate shall be issued in the name of the successful bidder. No request for change of name in the sale certificate other than the person who submitted the bid/participated in the e-auction will be entertained.

THIS NOTICE WILL ALSO SERVE AS STATUTORY 30 DAYS NOTICE TO THE BORROWER/ GUARANTORS/ MORTGAGOR UNDER SARFAESI ACT AND RULES MADE THEREUNDER

Date: 28.11.2024,Place :Chennai **Authorized Officer & For Reliance Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd.,**

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

1. Petition for truing up of Transmission tariff for 2019-24 and determination of transmission tariff for 2024-29 tariff block for Petition-1: Transmission System associated with Neyveli Lignite Corporation – II (NLC-II) Expansion Project, Petition-2: Supplementary Transmission System associated with Vallur TPS, Petition-3: Transmission system for controlling high Short Circuit Current level at 400kV Thiruvalam S/s, Petition-4: System strengthening – XXVI in Southern Region, Petition-5: Common Transmission Scheme associated with ISGS in nagapattinam Cuddalore area of Tamil Nadu part A1(a), Petition-6: Sub-station extension works associated with transmission system required for evacuation of power from Kudgi TPS (3 X 800 MW in Phase -I) of NTPC Limited, Petition-7: SYSTEM STRENGTHENING–XX in Southern Region & Petition-8: Common System Associated with Coastal Energen Private Limited & Ind-Bharat Power (Madras) Limited-LTOA Generation Projects in Tuticorin Area-Part-B
2. The beneficiaries of the above-mentioned Transmission system are: (a) TANGEDCO (b) TSNPDCL (c) KSEB (d) TSSPDCL (e) Electricity Dept. of Goa (f) Electricity Dept. of Puducherry (g) APEDCL (h) APSPDCL (i) CESC (j) MESCOM (k) BESCOM (l) GESCOM (m) HESCOM & (n) APCPDCL
3. Tariff details:

a) 2019-24 block **Rs. In lakhs**

Petition no	Asset detail	DOCO/ ECOD	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2024		2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Petition-1	Combined Asset	01.01.2010	87944.31	Revised AFC based on truing up	13344.29	12986.84	12795.42	9499.02	9676.31
Petition-2	Combined Asset	22.11.2013	17034.29	Revised AFC based on truing up	2,654.21	2,565.74	2,505.60	2,466.64	2,426.60
Petition-3	Combined Asset	13.4.2022	7103.71	Revised AFC based on truing up	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,189.93	1,292.22
Petition-4	Combined Asset	08.03.2021	1823.94	Revised AFC based on truing up	0.00	20.75	340.64	394.99	420.69
Petition-5	Combined Asset	5.5.2015	15335.03	Revised AFC based on truing up	2,409.83	2,336.43	2,274.14	2,217.46	2,163.21
Petition-6	Combined Asset	12.7.2016	13704.53	Revised AFC based on truing up	2,441.59	2,390.38	2,340.75	2,299.95	2,263.52
Petition-7	Combined Asset	14.08.2017	32075.72	Revised AFC based on truing up	8,200.48	8,131.63	8,122.60	8,172.65	8,226.00
Petition-8	Combined Asset	25.05.2017	273921.91	Revised AFC based on truing up	42,707.29	41,420.48	40,426.12	39,984.97	40,045.04

b) 2024-29 Block **Rs. In lakhs**

Petition no	Asset detail	Completion Cost as on 31.03.2029		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
Petition-1	Combined Asset	87944.31	AFC	8,853.97	8,905.44	8,927.70	8,983.80	9,104.19
Petition-2	Combined Asset	18394.33	AFC	2,379.55	2,396.85	1,755.67	1,746.71	1,739.56
Petition-3	Combined Asset	7303.33	AFC	1,298.45	1,292.58	1,273.14	1,254.16	1,229.93
Petition-4	Combined Asset	1823.94	AFC	389.77	388.09	386.83	379.69	367.09
Petition-5	Combined Asset	15337.28	AFC	2,100.07	2,031.30	1,961.50	1,902.10	1,389.00
Petition-6	Combined Asset	13704.53	AFC	2,227.17	2,177.41	2,110.7	2,038.56	2,003.61
Petition-7	Combined Asset	32082.30	AFC	6,971.77	6,960.25	6,957.84	6,971.59	7,002.99
Petition-8	Combined Asset	275322.86	AFC	38,811.99	37,695.84	36,537.14	35,368.65	34,249.52

4. A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the website of the applicant at www.powergrid.in.
5. The suggestions and objections, if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person, including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th floor, Tower B, World Trade Centre, Naoroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029 (or other address where the office of the Commission is situated), with a copy to the applicant at the address of its corporate office within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Chief General Manager (Commercial/RC)

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office : B-9, Qutab Institutional Area, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi - 110 016
Corporate Office : Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001
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Invited from reputed parties with expertise and experience in precision alignment of magnetic coupled shaft of speed (6000 rpm) rotating machinery.
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No. CEE(T&P)/SEE2/EET12N/KCO173/2024-25/6065-70 Date: 30.11.2024

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal against the Enquiry No. **KPTCL/2024-25/SE1911** for **"Providing manpower services of 110Nos. of Data Entry Operators required at Corporate Office, KPTCL, Bengaluru and Transport Sub-division, KPTCL, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru".**

The bids will be received through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only. The details regarding the subject enquiry in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04.12.2024 @ 15:00 hrs** and the last date & time for receipt of bids in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal is **26.12.2024 @ 15:00 hrs.**

Any extensions of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. All Corrigendum / Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy.,
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LoP in the Assembly R Ashok sought a Lokyukta probe into the four maternal deaths that took place at the Ballari Institute of Medical Sciences. Ashok, who visited the hospital and also met the family of the deceased, accused the state government of being responsible for the deaths by not curbing the supply of the banned Intravenous fluids. "It is not merely negligence by the hospital, but the state government has killed them," he said

HASSAN RALLY A CONG EVENT: DKS

KPCC chief says party bigger than individuals; GoP to hold similar event in Belagavi

CM Siddaramaiah and DyCM DK Shivakumar after paying tributes to former CM Kengal Hanumanthaiah on his 45th death anniversary in Bengaluru on Sunday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress president, clarified that the Swabhimani Samavesha planned in Hassan on December 5 is a party event and to strengthen the party ahead of the elections to local bodies.

After the rally in Hassan, a similar programme will be held in Belagavi soon and also in other districts later, he said.

He said that the rally in Hassan is a party event to "protect the country and the Constitution."

"The Congress will take full responsibility of Swabhimani Samavesha under my leadership," Shivakumar told reporters after holding a preliminary meeting with the leaders from four districts of Mysuru division ahead of the Hassan event.

Shivakumar admitted that the Congress was holding rallies keeping in mind the ZP/TP elections. "Shouldn't we prepare the stage with some purpose in mind? It is true that the elections are going to be held soon. It cannot be stopped. This was discussed in the cabinet meeting and preparations are being made to hold it by February," the state Congress chief said.

On whether the Hassan rally, initially planned to be a show of strength for Siddaramaiah, but now a full-fledged Congress event, Shivakumar, denying the same, said, "Where was the format of this meeting decided? I am saying this as the party president. Siddaramaiah is the Chief Minister of the Congress government and not the CM of an alliance party. There is only one party, only one symbol here. Some people have different personal opinions. We have discussed this issue with the AICC chief, the CM, and the AICC general secretaries," he said, adding that party is bigger than individuals.

"Many organisations and communities have expressed their support for the samavesha. We wholeheartedly accept it," he said.

> *The Congress will take full responsibility of Swabhimani Samavesha under my leadership... There is only one party, only one symbol here*
> DK Shivakumar, DyCM

> *I did not leave the JDS... former PM Deve Gowda expelled me. Then I had no other choice but to hold AHINDA rallies*
> Chief Minister Siddaramaiah while replying to Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy on holding rallies

No position vacant, says Shivakumar

DyCM DK Shivakumar clarified there will be no reshuffle of the cabinet or the change in KPCC president post. "There is no need for it. There is a legislature session soon. Only one ministerial berth is vacant and the CM has spoken about it (filling it)," he said.

"I don't send any progress reports about the ministers. Our high command has its own system and is getting information from everyone," he added.

Congress plans more rallies to keep winning momentum going

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @ Bengaluru

THE state Congress, which is in high spirits after its recent bypoll wins, wants to keep the winning momentum going ahead of the local body elections to be held in 2025. As part of this, the Grand Old Party has decided to hold massive rallies across the state.

Each time Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's staunch supporters—the AHINDA (Kannada acronym for Alpasankyatha (minorities), Hindulida (backward), and Dalit (Scheduled Castes) members)—hold a convention or a rally to enhance the image of their leader, the Congress high command has managed to convert it into a party event.

The latest of the conventions is the Swabhimani Samavesha in Hassan on December 5, which will be held under the auspices of the Congress and the Shoshita Samudayagala Okkuta, a federation of oppressed classes that supports Siddaramaiah.

When Siddaramaiah's 75th birthday celebrations were held in Chitradurga in 2023, the Congress managed to "take over the event" with senior leader and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, attending it. Rahul helped in mending the "strained" relationship between Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, which helped the party clinch power in Karnataka. As a result, the Congress has continued to use this strategy of using Siddaramaiah's supporters to strengthen the party organisation for which the latter has given his nod, said party insiders.

However, Swabhimani Samavesha has put Siddaramaiah in a spot of bother after an anonymous letter was sent to AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge claiming that the convention has been planned to help the CM regain his lost ground after his name surfaced in the alleged MUDA site allotment scam. Kharge swung into action and alerted AICC general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala, who managed to convince Siddaramaiah to ensure that Swabhimani Samavesha happens under the party banner, said informed sources.

"Kharge at the helm of affairs has come in handy for Karnataka Congress leaders to keep a check on Siddaramaiah and his supporters," felt a Congress leader.

Rahul Gandhi has also given his nod for the rallies planned by the supporters of Siddaramaiah after the latter convinced the former that it would help the party, said party sources.

After Swabhimani Samavesha in Hassan, similar rallies are planned across the state as the Congress wants to take the government's achievements to the people. The rallies are also expected to boost Siddaramaiah's image, which has taken a beating amid the alleged scams in the MUDA and ST Corporation.

The Congress top brass does not want to give any room for the opposition to attack the CM or the government over corruption. Prior to Swabhimani Samavesha, Siddaramaiah will be inaugurating development works worth over Rs 900 crore in Tumakuru on Monday.

Samavesha is to express gratitude to people, says Siddaramaiah

CM Siddaramaiah said that the samavesha is being organised by the Congress and is to express gratitude to the people of the state. Siddaramaiah was replying to Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy's statement that he has was playing the "same old trick" of holding rallies similar to what he did after quitting the JDS. "I did not leave the JDS... Deve Gowda expelled me. Then I had no other choice but to hold AHINDA rallies," the CM said. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and party general secretary and Karnataka Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala have also been invited, Siddaramaiah told reporters.

Former CM and BJP strongman BS Yediyurappa meets party leaders at his Bengaluru residence on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Rift wide open in state BJP

Release papers to prove your charges: Vijayendra to Yatnal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA BJP president **BY Vijayendra** has demanded that senior party MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal release documents to prove his allegations against him.

Speaking to media persons on Sunday, Vijayendra hit out at Yatnal and said one should not insult the party and its workers.

On Sunday evening, a few BJP leaders met at the residence of former CM BS Yediyurappa to discuss various issues ahead of the state BJP core committee meeting.

The leaders raised concern over Yatnal's behaviour of targeting Yediyurappa and his son Vijayendra.

"One's behaviour should not damage the party's reputation. Let him (Yatnal) continue his attempt to bring a change in state presidentship. The party leadership is clear. BJP Karnataka will work in that direction," he said.

Vijayendra said they do not have any intention to expel Yatnal from the party. "As the primary opposition party, we have raised many issues concerning Congress, including the scams in MUDA and ST Corporation. Because of our efforts, people are calling this government corrupt. When that is the case, a few BJP leaders with vested interests are making allegations against Yediyurappa," Vijayendra said. Vijayendra said that his vision is to take the party in the right direction, and he is capable of taking it forward. "By making allegations against me... Yatnal who is accusing me of indulging in adjustment politics, is damaging the party. Neither God nor party members will forgive him, he said.

I am selfish, will be top politician of Karnataka: Yatnal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Belagavi

"I AM fighting to improve my reputation in state politics. Yes, I am selfish. I am not a selfless, sacrificer or saint in politics. I am fighting to become something. I will become the No.1 politician in Karnataka in the coming days. The media will come to me after I become chief minister," BJP MLA **Basangouda Patil Yatnal** said in Belagavi on Sunday.

He told the media in Belagavi, "We are creating awareness among the people about the Waqf scam. After completing Kalyana-Karnataka region, we are entering Kittur-Karnataka region. We are leaving for Delhi on Monday evening.

'Waqf' appears in the properties of mutts and temples. A report will be submitted to the Joint Parliamentary Committee. This is our current agenda." Yatnal denied having any differences in the party over leadership. "The government is threatening the Lingayat Panchamsali community over the reservation issue," he said.

"Waqf is a disease for the country. It is a fire started by minister Zameer Ahmed Khan; he had earlier claimed there was 1.15 lakh acre of Waqf land in the state, now he is claiming 6 lakh acres. Our second phase fight against Waqf will start after coming from Delhi. There has been an attack on a Dalit in Chikkaballapur over Waqf property. I will not leave the matter here."

He claimed that the Anubhava Mantapa of Basavanna has become a 'Peerbasha Dargah'. "Let the swamiji speak on it. Andolana Swamiji has already said he will start the fight. The fight should be along the Ayodhya model," he said.

SLEW OF MEASURES

GRACE MARKS, 25% ATTENDANCE FOR SPORTS STUDENTS, SAYS CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CM Siddaramaiah said the state government would consider giving students involved in sports 25 per cent attendance concession and 10 grace marks in all educational institutions. Speaking at the Karnataka Olympic Association (KOA) award distribution ceremony held here on Sunday, the CM stated that the government will seriously consider attendance concession and grace marks for students actively involved in sports activities, to encourage them.

Siddaramaiah said KOA has been presenting these awards for the past 22 years to encourage sportspersons to participate at the state, national and international levels. "We have reserved Rs 6 crore for gold medallists and Rs 4 crore for silver medallists. But nobody has brought in any Olympic medals so far," the CM said, urging sportspersons from Karnataka to bring gold medals. "Although I am not a sportsperson, I am a sports enthusiast. I used to participate in all sports during my school and college days, but never won any awards. However, I won two awards at the Legislators' Sports Meet," he recalled, saying he was committed to provide all necessary facilities for sportspersons.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, KOA President and CM's Political Secretary Dr K Govindaraj and others at the KOA Award function in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

MLC and CM's political secretary Dr K Govindaraj, who is also president of KOA, said this is the 22nd edition of the KOA awards. "There is 3% reservation in police and forest department jobs, and 2% reservation in various government departments for sportspersons, which is the highest compared to any other state," he said.

WINNERS ALL

Fifteen outstanding sportspersons and seven veterans, including a retired IPS officer and a photojournalist, were felicitated with the KOA award. Siddaramaiah and Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara presented mementos and a cheque of Rs 1 lakh to the 15 winners, while the veterans received mementos. The winners are Sinchal Kaveramma TR (athletics), K Sai Pratheek (badminton), Abhishek Gowda CR (basketball), Keerthi Rangaswamy C (cycling), Sejal Gulia (fencing), Ankita P(football), Keerthana G (gymnastics), Dadapeer (canoeing & kayaking), Mohd Rah Mouseen (hockey), Surabhi BR (netball), Yukthi Rajendra (rifle shooting), Suhita Maruri (lawn tennis) Aneesh S Gowda (swimming) and Usha SR (weightlifting). The veteran winners are Dr Shama Kittur, Chandrashekar GA, Anil Aldrin Alexander, Dr Anuradha Namashivya, Capt. Dileep Kumar OC, MA Parthasarathy and BNS Reddy.

Photojournalist Veeramani was also awarded for his exceptional photography in the field of sports.

Siddaramaiah not to attend Bhartiya Sanskriti Utsava amid row over 'unauthorised' invitation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah has announced that he will not be attending the Bhartiya Sanskriti Utsava, organised by the Bharat Vikas Sangam, scheduled to be held in Kalaburagi from January 29 to February 6. The decision came after Siddaramaiah's name appeared on the event's official invitation letter, sparking an outrage.

Taking to 'X', Siddaramaiah expressed his surprise, saying, "I have noticed that my name has been printed on the invitation letter for the inauguration of the Indian Culture Festival organised by the Bharatiya Vikas Sangam. However, I have not received an official invitation for this event." In a further revelation, he added, "After reviewing the background details of the organisation that is hosting this event, I have decided not to participate in it."

The controversy erupted when the Bharat Vikas Sangam, linked to BJP-RSS ideologue Govind Acharya, listed Siddaramaiah as an invitee to the event. His inclusion alongside other prominent Congress leaders raised eyebrows, with one activist accusing the organisation of promoting right-wing ideologies, which starkly oppose Congress' values.

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge also publicly stated that his name had been added without his consent. Two other Congress minister's names who also figured among the invitees are Karnataka Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar and Agriculture Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy. In addition to this, the name of Ballari MP E Tukaram also figured among the invitees.

> **After reviewing the background details of the organisation that is hosting this event, I have decided not to participate in it**
> Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister

POLITICAL THEATRE

Where is secularism in JDS, asks CM

BENGALURU: Hitting out at Union Minister and former chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asked where secularism was in Janata Dal (Secular) after joining hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party. Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru on Sunday, Siddaramaiah said that JDS was not secular anymore after it joined hands with a "communal" party. He said state JDS chief Kumaraswamy was not there when the regional party was taking shape. "Kumaraswamy does not know on what principle the party was built. We built JDS. I was there along with former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and former MLC CM Ibrahim," Siddaramaiah said, adding that by joining hands with the BJP, the JDS has lost its secular credentials. Siddaramaiah said that several JDS leaders, including Kumaraswamy, are claiming that he quit the JDS, while in reality he was expelled from the party. **ENS**

4th FIR of Munirathna to be moved to SIT

BENGALURU: The fourth FIR registered against BJP MLA Munirathna for alleged attempt to murder, voyeurism, and other charges at the Nandini Layout police station will soon be transferred to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the CID, said the police. He is currently out on bail. The SIT of the CID is already investigating three cases - two registered at Vyalikaval police station and one at Kaggalipura station in Ramanagara - including rape allegations, against Munirathna. "While the three other cases are being probed by SIT, the case registered by the Nandini Layout police will soon be transferred to SIT. Senior officers are also in discussions to facilitate the transfer," a senior officer told *TNIE*. The fourth FIR against Munirathna was registered on Saturday based on a complaint filed by Narayanaswamy, husband of former corporator Manjula N Swamy, alleging that the MLA tried to kill him and threatened to falsely implicate him and his family members in criminal cases, over the past eight years. SIT has submitted a 590-page charge sheet in connection with the alleged casteist slurs hurled at former corporator Velunayakar. SIT submitted the charge sheet to the special court on Saturday and confirmed that the audio samples in the viral audio matched the MLA's voice, according to chargesheet. **ENS**

Three doctors were killed on the spot, and one was injured in a tragic road accident near Vidapanakal village in Anantapur district on Sunday. The deceased have been identified as E Govinda Raja (52), Yogesh Bhavimani, and Venkat Naidu (53)

48.4CM RAIN INUNDATES PUDUCHERRY

Power restored in only 20% of affected areas in UT; Mobile network connectivity disrupted

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

PUDUCHERRY recorded an unprecedented rainfall of 48.4 cm in 24 hours, surpassing the 1978 record of 31 cm. Continuous rainfall since Saturday morning inundated various areas, leading to flooding, power disruption, and the loss of four lives. A holiday has been declared for schools and colleges in Puducherry on Monday.

Power supply was restored in only 20% of the affected areas by Sunday evening, as many rural areas and city neighbourhoods remain without power. Mobile network connectivity was also disrupted and there was shortage of essential supplies such as candles, milk, and ready-made food items.

The heavy rainfall caused major water bodies and canals to overflow, resulting in flooding in areas such as Kosapalayam, Saram, Rainbow Nagar, Venkata Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Govinda Salai, Nellithope, and Kamaraj Salai. Residents in these areas said they were unable to leave their homes due to water stagnation and heavy winds.

"Four people lost their lives due to rain-related incidents. We have rescued 651 people and accommodated them in 51 relief centres. An additional 208 locations have been identified for setting up more relief centres," Puducherry Collector A Kulothungan said. He also invoked Section 34 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to convert educational institutions into temporary shelters.

Canal obstructed

Overflowing Kanakan Lake and Uppanar Canal exacerbated the flooding. The Uppanar Canal, which has been obstructed by a partially constructed road for nearly two decades, contributed significantly to the water stagnation.

"Water overflowed from the Uppanar Canal into our area, and we couldn't leave or stay inside our homes since Saturday night. The government must either complete the canal work or demolish the incomplete structure that blocks water flow," said a resident of Sithankudi.

Rescue personnel evacuate a family through knee-deep water in Puducherry after the city received heavy rainfall owing to Cyclone Fengal on Sunday | EXPRESS

Seven, including 5 children, trapped in Annamalaiyar Hill landslide

Tiruvannamalai: At least seven persons, including five children, are feared trapped inside a house beneath a landslide near the lower slopes of the Annamalaiyar Hill in Tiruvannamalai district on Sunday. The landslide, which occurred around 4.30 pm, was triggered by incessant rainfall brought by cyclone Fengal. Rescue operations were halted by Sunday night due to rain and possibility of more landslides. The National Disaster Response Force has been asked to take over from Monday morning. According to officials, the trapped persons have been identified as Rajkumar, his wife Meena, their two children and his brother-in-law's three children.

Stalin requests Centre to assess damage

TN CM MK Stalin on Sunday said that the state government will request the union government to send a team to assess the damage caused by Cyclone Fengal in Tamil Nadu, especially in Villupuram. The chief minister added that the damage can be assessed only after the rains subside.

Red alert issued for four Kerala districts

Cyclone Fengal, which has reduced to a deep depression, is expected to cause heavy rainfall in the state in its last lap on Monday. The India Meteorological Department has forecast widespread heavy rainfall across the state on Monday, with a red alert issued for Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, and Kannur.

Incessant rain batters Nellore, Tirupati in AP

D SURENDRA KUMAR @ Tirupati

COASTAL mandals in Nellore and Tirupati districts have been experiencing incessant rainfall since Cyclone Fengal's landfall, and normal life has been disrupted. In Nellore, Manubolu recorded the highest rainfall of 15 cm, followed by Indukurupeta 11 cm, Rapur 9 cm, Nellore Rural, Podalakuru and Kodavaluru 8 cm, Muthukur, Buchireddypalem, Sydapuram, Thotapalligudur and Allur 7 cm.

The unrelenting downpour has left tobacco farmers in upland mandals of Nellore deeply concerned about the survival of their crops. The heavy rains have also disrupted normal life in urban areas like Tirupati, Nellore City, Sullurupeta, Naidupeta and Kavali, and strong winds under the influence of cyclone continue to impact coastal mandals.

Tobacco plants in the 'relupu' stage are particularly vulnerable as heavy rains can loosen the soil, leading to inferior leaf growth.

The heavy rainfall has filled all the major dams in Tirumala close to the brim. Papavinasanam, Akashaganga, and Pasupudhara dams have recorded significant increase in water levels.

ISKCON Priests and devotees protest against atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Iskcon holds sankirtan for persecuted Hindus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING the arrest of Sri Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, a prominent devotee leader and spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sanatan Jagaran Mancha, by Dhaka police, Iskcon organized a Global Sankirtan across the world in solidarity with the persecuted Hindus of Bangladesh on Sunday.

Iskcon Bengaluru also organized a peaceful sankirtan on Hare Krishna Hill to show support for the persecuted minorities in Bangladesh. The event saw participation from renowned spiritual leaders such as Sri Vishvaprasanna Teertha Swami of Pejawar Mutt, devotees and well-wishers.

The event, Iskcon leaders said, was held in response to the escalating violence against the Hindu community in Bangladesh, where temples have been targeted, and followers of Sanatana Dharma are under serious threat.

Fanatic mobs have been responsible for numerous attacks, resulting in the death of many innocent people. These ongoing attacks on Hindus and other minority groups in Bangladesh have sparked global concern, with calls for the violence to cease. The Iskcon movement's Global Sankirtan was a peaceful demonstration aimed at expressing the grief and pain of the global Hindu community, the leaders said in a statement.

The movement emphasized that the programme was not intended to oppose Bangladesh or any religious community but was instead a call for the protection and safety of all minorities in the country.

Sri Madhu Pandit Dasa, chairman and mentor of the Global Hare Krishna Movement and president of Iskcon Bengaluru, expressed deep concern regarding the violence in Bangladesh. "We have come across disturbing reports about violence against Hindus in Bangladesh. We are deeply concerned about the situation and expect the Bangladesh government to ensure the safety of Chinmoy Krishna Prabhu, Iskcon devotees and all other persecuted minority communities," he added. He also urged the Government of India to work with neighbouring countries to protect the rights of minorities in the region.

Rescued man was chained over financial 'dispute'

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH
@ Dharwad

DAYS after a man who was chained in a dhaba on the outskirts of Dharwad was rescued by the police, the story has taken a new twist. The district police took four people into custody in connection with the case on Saturday. Earlier, it was claimed that the chained person had mental health issues, but now it appears to be a case of financial dispute.

On Friday, senior police officers, including Superintendent of Police (SP) Gopal Bykod visited the spot and conducted a preliminary inquiry.

The SP told *TNIE*, that day, the father of the rescued man and others had come with come up with various stories but a probe has revealed something else. Arunkumar Yadav, a resident of Uttar Pardesh, arrived in the city five years ago. He borrowed Rs 1 lakh from the dhaba owner for his daughter's marriage by promising to work at his dhaba along with his son. But when his son Kiran (who was later chained) started to work at different places and avoided work at the dhaba, the owner chained him for the last 20 days.

Police have taken the four people into custody. They are Mohamad Aburkar Nayak, owner of Old Mulla Dhaba, Taifur Shamin Ahmed resident of Udakeri and relative of the owner, manager Manjunath Uppar and another accused Shanoor Babajan. All of them will be produced before a court.

Priyanka Gandhi urges rehab of Wayanad victims

ENS @ Kalpetta

PRIYANKA Gandhi received an enthusiastic welcome in Kalpetta on Sunday during her first visit to Wayanad since becoming the MP of the constituency. Addressing a gathering, she expressed her concern over the lack of effective rehabilitation and compensation for the victims of the Wayanad landslide disaster. Priyanka announced her intention to write to CM Pinarayi Vijayan and PM Narendra Modi, urging them to take decisive action.

In her speech, she emphasised the need for disaster rehabilitation to rise above political affiliations. She pointed out that despite visits to the disaster-hit regions by the prime minister, concrete measures for relief and rehabilitation are yet to materialise.

Harness India's 'double AI power': PM Modi tells cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhubaneswar

PRIME Minister **Narendra Modi** on Sunday called upon the police and security establishment to harness India's double AI power of Artificial Intelligence and 'Aspirational India' to thwart the threats from digital fraud, cyber crime and AI technology, particularly the potential of deepfake to disrupt social and familial relations.

Addressing the DGP and IG conference on the concluding day, the prime minister also emphasised transformation of the police to SMART through strategic, meticulous, adaptable, reliable and transparent action while urging the law enforcement agencies to modernise and realign themselves with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat'.

He appreciating the initiatives taken in urban policing and suggested that each of the initiatives be collated and implemented entirely in 100 cities of the country. He called for the use of technology to reduce the workload of the constabulary and suggested that police stations be made the focal point for resource allocation. He also highlighted the need for expanding the focus on port security and preparing a future plan of action for it.

The conference was attended by Union Home minister Amit Shah, national security advisor Ajit Doval, ministers of state for home Nityanand Rai and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, principal secretary to PM PK Mishra and Union Home secretary Govind Mohan.

EXPRESS READ

Kannada actress Shobitha kills self

HYDERABAD : Kannada cinema and television actress Shobitha Shivanna, 32, died by committing suicide at Kondapur.The Gachibowli police said that they received a petition from a head constable on Sunday at 12 pm. In which he stated that while he was on Patrol duty in the Kondapur area at 10am he received a call from a person. The stated that a lady committed suicide at Kondapur.

Alcoholic beats mother to death in Odisha

ROURKELA : Talasara police on Sunday arrested a 28-year-old man for allegedly killing his mother after she denied him food on Saturday evening. The accused, Biswa Lakra of Tumulia village in Sundargarh district returned home in an inebriated state and was denied food by his mother Sabita. Lakra's father and brother weren't home. He beat her mother to death with a stick and escaped.

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86/2	2.00	Mr A Ramachandrappa
86/8	0.75	Mr A Nagaraj
86/9	0.25	Ms K Shanthamma
86/10	0.25	Ms A Anjali
86/11	0.25	Ms A Amrutha
87/1	2.85	M/s Micro Labs Limited
214/1	1.18	Mr G Shashidhar Reddy
214/2	0.93	Mr G Vishnuvardhan Reddy
215/1	0.23	Ms Venkatamma
215/2	1.01	Ms Venkatamma

Dated this 02nd day of December 2024.

Rajiv Khaitan
Partner
Khaitan & Co LLP
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor
45/1, Magrath Road
Bengaluru - 560 025
T: +91 80 4339 7000

HEARING DATE : 16.12.2024
IN THE COURT OF THE 82ND ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, (COMMERCIAL COURT), AT BENGALURU (CCH-83)
COMMERCIAL O.S. No. 465 of 2024

Between: **M/s RASHMI,** A partnership Firm registered under the Provisions of Partnership Act, 1956 Having its registered office at No.23/4, Nayandahalli, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 039.
Represented by its GPA Holder SATHISH C P
Email id: rashmi_indane@yahoo.com
...Plaintiff

And: **1) M/s FREE MINDS,**
A partnership Firm registered under the Provisions of Partnership Act, 1956 Having its registered office at No.8, 6th C Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011.
Represented by its Partners
(i) AKSHAY MEHTA
(ii) SHILPA KANWAR RAJAWAT
(2) AKSHAY MEHTA, Partner, M/s Free Minds Aged about 32years, S/o Sri Dilip Mehta, No.225, Mahaveer Nagar, Near BSNL office, Pali -306401. Rajasthan
And also at No.8, 6th C Main,4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011
(3) SHILPA KANWAR RAJAWAT, Partner, M/s Free Minds, No. 8, 6th C Main 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 011.
...Defendants

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the Plaintiffs above named have instituted a suit against you for money recovery for the principal sum of principal sums of Rs. 4,30,504/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Thirty Thousand Five Hundred and Four only) from 31.08.2022 and interest at the rate of 18% per annum. Further pay a sum pay a sum Rs.5,40,273.0/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Forty Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy-Three Only) to the Plaintiff being principal and interest sums payable as on 01.02.2024; and further interest till the date of realization. hence you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person, or by a pleader duly instructed, and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions, **on the 16.12.2024 at 11 O'clock,** to answer the claim; (and further you are here by directed to file on that day a written statement of your defence and to produce on the said day all the documents in your possession or power upon which you base your defence or claim for set-off or counter-claim, and where you rely on any other document whether in your possession or power or not, as evidence in support of your defence or claim for-off or counter-claim, you shall enter such documents in a list to be annexed to the written statement)
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, 21st day of November 2024.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Address for service:
Sanjay H. Sethiya, Advocate
Law Square, Advocates & Solicitors
Level Two, No.2/1, 3rd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009.

LOST & FOUND

I, A.Narayanappa, S/o Annamallappa, R/at K.K.Nilaya, Near Maheshwaramma Temple, Doopanahalli, Bangalore-560008, has lost my original sale deed dated 03/07/1995, bearing register No.3068/1995-96, Book-I, registered in the office of sub registrar, Krishnarajapura, and another original sale deed dated 11/10/1995, bearing register No.7226/1995-96, Book-I, Volume 7226, pages 188-190, registered in the office of sub registrar, Krishnarajapura. The said documents were kept in our house, but now it is not tracing. I have registered a complaint through online having its lost report No.1357415/2024, dated 28.11.2024, if finds, kindly contact to this numbers 9900047710 and also if found please handover the said document to
Smt. K. Suma, advocate,
Mob: 8123003552, having office @ No. 6/1, G-Floor, 15th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore-560 002.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Suresh Nayak,** S/o Late. Manjappa Nayak, aged about 48 years, residing at No.1-186, Indira Nilaya, Hosadu, Trasi, Udupi, Kundapura, Karnataka-576235, Aadhaar No. 4223 2338 0761, have negotiated to purchase the below mentioned property from its present owner **Rupa.N.T.,** W/o H S Palaksha Murthy, aged about 48 years, residing at No.703, 6th Main Road, Near Gandhi Park, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 040, Aadhaar No.7887 7930 1223, having title to the property concerned as per the documents verified.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge or Encumbrance over the schedule property, may notify such claim or objections if any together with the documents to substantiate the same, to the undersigned, within **15 days** from the date of this notice failing which it would be presumed and deemed that, no third party / person is having any such right, title, interest, claim, charge or encumbrance, over the schedule property and my client would proceed with the transaction, to complete the transfer of property.

SCHEDULE

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Residential BDA Vacant site No.263, BBMP Katha No.263/1435/263 situated at Jnanabharathi 2nd Block, (Valgerahalli) BDA Layout, Kengeri Sub Division, Bengaluru comes under Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara palike, Limits ward No.130, measuring East to West 18.28 meters and North to South 12.20 meter in all 223.01 sq meter and bounded on the: **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No.261 & 263, **North by:** Site No.264, **South by:** Private property.

Sri. Shivalinge Gowda .M, Advocate
Office at No.7, Sapthagiri Complex
1st Floor, Government Press Layout
Ullal Main Road, Bengaluru-56
Ph: 9448034191. Date: 30-11-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

I, the undersigned Counsel was issued a Notice to General Public on01-12-2024 in"Kannada Prabha" and "Indian Express", daily News Paper on behalf of my client **Mrs. H.N. Sunanda,** W/o K. Kumar, aged 41years, resident of Hullegowdanahalli, Dasanpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk - 562 123, my client acquired title over the schedule property by virtue of Partition Deed executed by and between Mrs. Gangalaxmamma and others bearing document no. SRI-1-03203/2024-25 dtd. 24-6-2024. Now my client availing a loan from PiramalCapital and Housing Finance Limited. My client further states that if any dispute with her ownership or possession of the schedule propertyand if anyone having any adverse claim in respect of the saidproperty are hereby advised to place their claim with appropriate written evidences. Please note that claims received without written evidences within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice thereafter will not be entertained. Schedule Property: All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Gramathana Khatha No. 165/163/1 PID No. E-swathu No. 150200202201200159, situated at Hullegowdanahalli, Dasanpura Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk, Bengaluru - 562 123, measuring east to west 22ft.(6.70mtrs.) and towards south 31 ft.(9.44mtrs.) totally measuring 682sq.ft.(63.35sq.mtr.)
My client has approached paper publication by way of Public Notice for call for objections if any subsequently, I have published in Public Notice in daily newspapers as mentioned above. In view of Public notice/ publication till today I have not received any claims or objections from any one.

Smt. Anuradha D. Advocate
No.48, 1st Floor, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, T.Dasarahalli, Bengaluru. Mob. No.9986831930

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that My client, **Sri. M. HAMSAKEERTHI, S/o Sri. H.C. Manjunatha,** aged about 30 years, R/at #16, 2nd Cross, Thayammanavara Chikkapullappa Garden, Horamavu Agara Main Road, Bengaluru-560 043. is the absolute owner of the residential Site described here under the scheduled property.

My client state that the original Gift Deed dated 23-06-2010, Registered in Book No-1, Doc. No. BNS-1-01728-2010-11, Stored in CD No.BNSD59, registered before the Senior Sub-registrar office at Banasawadi, Bengaluru. Pertaining to the scheduled property Mentioned below has been lost near the Horamavu.

Therefore, the public at large is hereby informed that in the event of anybody finding the said document, kindly hand over the same to us. And further the Public at large are hereby warned not to deal with the schedule property without there being our client involvement and specific consent for the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Sy. No. 25/1, Situated at Horamavu Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, Bengaluru. Measuring 1 Acre and bounded on: **East:** Land belonging to Sri.H.C.Gajendran & H.C.Srinivasa, **West:** Land belonging to Sri. Shamanna, **North** : Land belonging to Sri.Jayaram, **South:** Raja Kaluve.

SRINATHA .D.R
Advocate and Notary
No.100, Behind Manasa Cafe, Old Madras Road, K R Puram, Bengaluru-560036
M: 9449000467
Email:srinathareddydr@gmail.com
Date: 01-12-2024

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, AT BANGALORE
O.A. No.2057 / 2023

Between: State Bank of India, Formed under State Bank of India, Act 1955 Having its corporate Centre at Madame came Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021 and all branch all over India Inter alia Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Bengaluru, No. 11/90, 3rd Floor, near Shivaji Theatre, J. C. Road, Bengaluru - 560 002, Represented by its Chief Manager, IFSC No. SBIN0005173 E mail Id: sbi05173@sbi.co.in ...**Applicant**
AND
Sri Ramesh Babu Mylapilli , S/o. Upendra Rao, Aged about 48 years, R/at C-703, Purva Mio Town Apartments, Dooravani Nagarm FCI Godown Road, Tin Factory, KR Puram, Bengaluru - 560 016. DOB 18.08.1975, PAN No. ALHPM2910M, Ph No. 7348836595, 7348836539,
Email: Ramesh.bg@gmail.com
And Also at : No. 2-70, Vadapalaam, Calimgapatnam, Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh - 582 406.
And also at : Saatchi & Saatchi Pvt Ltd., 8th Floor, SN Tower Trenity Circle Bengaluru - 560 001.
And Also at : Site No. 23, S2 Homes Butterfly Gardens, Vaderman Chanahalli & Konasandra Village Jigini, Anekal Taluk - 562 106. ...**Defendants**

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993 TO THE DEFENDANT NO. 6

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act,1993 against the defendant for recovery of a Sum of **Rs.71,82,608.00** (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Eighty Two Thousand Six Hundred and Eight only) which is over due along with interest which is payable as on 31.10.2023 together with current and future and interest and other relidf's the above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **21.02.2025 at 10.30 a. m.** as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal, on this **14th day of October 2024.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II,Bengaluru

HEARING DATE : 16.12.2024
(ORDER 5, RULE 1, 5)
IN THE COURT OF THE 82ND ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, (COMMERCIAL COURT), AT BENGALURU (CCH-83)
COMMERCIAL O.S. No. 464 of 2024

Between : **M/s RASHMI,** A partnership Firm registered under the Provisions of Partnership Act, 1956 Having its registered office at No.23/4, Nayandahalli, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 039.
Represented by its GPA Holder SATHISH C P
Email id: rashmi_indane@yahoo.com
...Plaintiff

And : **(1) M/s MMC ENTERPRISES,**
A partnership Firm registered under the Provisions of Partnership Act, 1956 Having its registered office at No.8, 6th C Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011
Represented by its Partners
(i) AKSHAY MEHTA
(ii) MAHIPAL
(iii) CHETAN KUMAR
(2) AKSHAY MEHTA, Partner, Aged about 32years, S/o Sri Dilip Mehta, No.225, Mahaveer Nagar, Near BSNL office, Pali-306401. Rajasthan
And also at No.8, 6th C Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011.
(3) MAHIPAL, Partner, Aged about 41years, S/o Sri Gherwarchand Parekh, No.9, 1st Cross, 1st 'A' Main, Siva Mansion, Rajajinagar 6th Block, Bengaluru-560010.
And also at No.1165, Sobha Indraprastha, 35th Cross, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010.
(4) CHETAN KUMAR, Partner, Aged about 31years, S/o Sri Sajjan Raj Raysoni, No.11, 1st Floor, Pillappa Lane, Nagarathpet Cross, Bengaluru-560002. ...**Defendants**

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS the Plaintiffs above named have instituted a suit against you for money recovery for the principal sum of Rs.12,16,673.59/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy-Three and Fifty-Nine Paisa only) from 30.11.2020 and interest at the rate of 18% per annum. Further pay a sum Rs.19,13,859/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakhs Thirteen Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Nine Only) to the Plaintiff being principal and interest sum payable as on 01.02.2024 and further interest till the date of realization. hence you are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person, or by a pleader duly instructed, and able to answer all material questions relating to the suit, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions, **on the 16.12.2024 at 11 O'clock,** to answer the claim; (and further you are here by directed to file on that day a written statement of your defence and to produce on the said day all the documents in your possession or power upon which you base your defence or claim for set-off or counter-claim, and where you rely on any other document whether in your possession or power or not, as evidence in support of your defence or claim for-off or counter-claim, you shall enter such documents in a list to be annexed to the written statement)
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, 21st day of November 2024.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Address for service:
Sanjay H. Sethiya, Advocate
Law Square, Advocates & Solicitors
Level Two, No.2/1, 3rd Cross, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works:

No. SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-1,2/F-65/23-24/2527-30 Dated : 28.11.2024

1) Replacement of 11kV Switchgears works on Partial Turnkey Basis coming under the jurisdiction of Ramanagara Circle at 66/11kV Tavarekere Substation.(CALL-3)

2) Providing Additional one number of 11kV 25KA, 1250, MCVCB feeder panel for Load Bifurcation of 11kV feeders at 66/11kV Substation Maralawadi on Partial Turnkey Basis coming under the jurisdiction of Ramanagara Circle.(CALL-3).

3) Providing Additional one number of 11kV, 25KA, 1250A, MCVCB feeder panel for Load Bifurcation of 11kV feeders at 66/11kV Substation Acchalu on Partial Turnkey Basis coming under the jurisdiction of Ramanagara Circle.(CALL-3)

4) Replacement of existing age old/deteriorated 11kv, 20kA 2 I/C+8F+2CB+1AP MEI make PCVCB switchgears panels by 11KV, 25kA, 2I/C+8F+2CB+1AP PCVCB MEI make switchgears panels at 66/11kv Melehalli Sub-station at Bidadi Nodal Centre in TL&SS Division Somanahalli Division, Ramanagara District on Partial Turnkey Basis. (CALL-2)

No. SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-34/24-25/2760-61 Dated : 28.11.2024

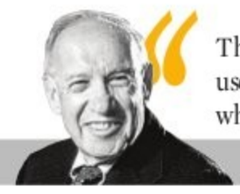
KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No : KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/ EE(O) /AEE-2/Upgradation at BWSSB Dtd: 25.11.2024 for Upgradation of protection systems at BWSSB Harohalli 220kV Receiving station Kanakapura road in TL&SS Division Kanakapura on Total Turnkey Basis.

The Detailed Notification regarding the tenders can be got by logging on or after **02.12.2024** to **https://.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (Maintenance), Ramanagara Circle, KPTCL,
Opp. R.R. Nagar Metro Station, Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560026

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

EDITORIAL



"There is surely nothing quite so useless as doing with great efficiency what should not be done at all" — Peter Drucker

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

PUT THE COMMUNAL GENIE BACK IN THE 1991 ACT BOTTLE

A seemingly iron-clad parliamentary mechanism crafted in 1991 to avoid an Ayodhya rerun suffered a body blow following a judicial muddle at the highest level over two years ago. The then Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud's oral observation in 2022 weakened the armour of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 that was put in place to preserve the character of religious institutions as on August 15, 1947. For, while hearing a dispute involving the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi on May 20, 2022, he said ascertaining the religious character of a shrine was not barred under the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. Incidentally, it was Justice Chandrachud who authored the unanimous landmark verdict that settled the Ayodhya dispute and paved the way for a Ram Janmabhoomi temple at the contested Babri masjid site. The verdict said it will not be a precedent for future mobilisations against places of worship of other faiths, though the 1991 Act exempted the Ayodhya site from its ambit. The RSS later concurred, saying there was no need to search for a Shivling under every mosque. Yet, predatory attacks on the 1991 Act continued, not through mass mobilisation but via judicial forays. As Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said, Justice Chandrachud's expansive observation opened a Pandora's box.

Consequences followed. Surveys have already been ordered on the historicity of religious structures at the Gyanvapi, Mathura, and Dhar and are in various stages of adjudication. The latest was by a civil judge at Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal. He passed an ex-parte order for a survey at a Shahi Jama Masjid by an advocate commissioner following claims that it was built by Mughal emperor Babur in 1526 after demolishing a Harihar temple at Chandausi. Riots erupted, which left at least four people dead. The apex court had to step in to pause the trial court hearing till the mosque side gets to approach the high court.

Mindless judicial activism, which in the present case smacks of majoritarianism, has already made Sambhal a communal cauldron. Another judicial misadventure, this time at the high court level, tore the social fabric in Manipur by ordering the extension of the Scheduled Tribe quota to the Meitei community a couple of years ago. It's time the Supreme Court got its act together and put the communal genie back in the bottle by upholding the 1991 Act without ifs and buts.

MUNAMBAM: PANEL MUST NOT DELAY RESOLUTION

THE Kerala government has set up a judicial commission to resolve the vexed land dispute in coastal Munambam in Ernakulam district where 600-odd families are fighting the Waqf board's claims over properties they say belonged to them for generations. The terms of reference stipulate that the C N Ramachandran Nair Commission will identify the current nature, extent, and position of the land, inquire and report on how to protect the interests of the occupants within three months. While the government has maintained residents with valid documents will not be evicted and the Waqf board has been directed not to issue further notices, the concern is the creation of the judicial commission will further delay a resolution. The practice of setting up judicial commissions to address contentious issues has become a norm in Kerala and most commissions have only served to delay solutions, dragging on for years with multiple extensions at taxpayers' expense. Expectedly, residents have responded to this with apprehension and are continuing their nearly two-month-long protest, though they have expressed willingness to cooperate with the commission.

The dispute has a history dating back to 1902, when the king of Travancore leased 404 acres of land and 60 acres of water to Abdul Sattar Musa Haji Seth of the Kutchi Memons who had migrated to Kerala in the 19th century. In 1950, Seth's successor gifted it to the management of Farook College in Kozhikode, and the word 'Waqf' was included in the document. The tussle between the residents and the college began in 1962, and in 1986, the E K Nayanar government intervened and a settlement was reached. Accordingly, residents purchased the land where their homes stood from the college, and title deeds were issued.

However, in 2019, the Waqf board laid its claim to the land. It all boils down to the rights of 600-odd families and the threat of their eviction from the land that belonged to their ancestors. The issue has already taken a communal tone with political parties and religious organisations jumping in. In the interest of those affected, and also to ensure social harmony, the issue must be resolved at the earliest. While a legal remedy could take years, a negotiated settlement is probably the best way out. The judicial commission should not become an excuse to drag the issue. The deadline must be adhered to and the government must keep its promise to the residents of Munambam.

QUICK TAKE

DUMPING THE DOLLAR

DONALD Trump often upsets well-laid calculations just by saying the quiet part out loud. The president-elect's latest demand is that BRICS nations should not replace the US dollar with a new or another currency; the incoming tariff tsar has threatened 100 percent duties on imports from these nations if they followed through with what, for now, is a dream. The dollar's share of all countries' foreign exchange reserves has been steadily dipping from 70-percent-plus in 2000 to below 60 percent now. It's the recent trend of countries trading more in their own currencies that worries US policymakers. To counter that, threatening high tariffs would be an ironic choice of weapon.

Throwing money about is easy, but does not address any of the problems and isn't going to bring back sustainable growth. That requires painstaking and difficult structural changes

ADDRESSING PRODUCTIVITY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

SATYAJIT DAS
Former banker and author

SOURAV ROY

GOVERNMENTS have embraced 'spray and pray' economics, throwing money around—large budget deficits or expansionary monetary policies—to restore growth. But long-term prosperity depends on increasing productivity—GDP per hour worked or output relative to total labour and capital inputs.

Productivity performance is driven by several forces. Capital—new equipment—allows more production. A better educated and skilled workforce and innovation can improve output. Entrepreneurship facilitates expansion or entry and exit from markets. Competition and trade improves resource allocation, enhancing productivity.

In advanced economies, productivity growth is now below 1 percent annually, lower than the 3-4 percent in the post-World War 2 era and the more recent 2-2.5 percent. Emerging market productivity growth remains above developed countries but is declining.

The fall reflects shifts in industrial structure. Productivity gains in manufacturing are easier through mechanisation, automation, mass production, workforce training and better supply chains. But major gains from economies of scale and experience curves are now not repeatable. Henry Ford's revolutionary assembly line was a 'one-off'.

Unlike manufacturing, services are personal, local, not globally traded and less amenable to automation. The non-routine, non-repetitive dynamics of healthcare and aged care mean productivity gains are not easy to achieve. Management consultants notwithstanding, shortening the time needed to diagnose a disease or undertake a medical procedure is difficult.

This means costs of manufactures—cars, household goods and electronics—have decreased over time. In contrast, education, healthcare, aged care and childcare costs have risen more than general inflation. This is the Baumol effect, named after the eponymous economist, which argues the cost of labour-intensive services reflects intrinsically lower rates of productivity improvement.

With services now constituting 60-70 percent of GDP, the fall in productivity growth in advanced economies is not unexpected.

Recent innovations may be less significant than earlier ones. Many bio-tech, IT and financial innovations are focused on lifestyle, longevity, consumption and entertainment, with limited direct productivity benefits. Robotics, automation, computerisation and artificial intelligence are not new and have been extensively exploited. New energy technologies, such as fracking and renewables, are not as revolutionary as hydrocarbons or electricity.

The impact of better education and training, especially basic literacy and numeracy, may have peaked. Changed work practices, with increasing fractionalising of tasks, require lower skill levels. It is driven by outsourcing to cheaper locations with less skilled workforces and greater use of contracting. This creates a mismatch between workforce skills and industrial requirements with many workers (up to 30 percent) being overqualified for their jobs, especially in developed economies.

Declining educational standards contribute to the malaise. The evidence points to a reduction in the average reading, writing and numeracy skills. In advanced countries, there is diminished focus on mathematics, science, technology and engineering. Western students target careers as online influencers or TikTok stars, not researchers or astronauts!

Proliferation of universities and colleges contributes to mediocrity. Many have succumbed to commercial pressures. Well-funded institutions staffed by well qualified staff with adequate facilities have given way to a pragmatic market-oriented approach to sell credentials to paying students. Combined with the decreasing income advantage of higher qualifications, the increasing cost of education has placed it beyond the reach of many, or forced graduates to start their working lives with significant debts.

An older workforce affects productivity in areas reliant on physical strength, endurance and agility. The disruption of the pandemic, including working from home that is proving difficult to reverse, may contribute to lower output.

The rise of monopolies and anti-competitive behaviours with a few large firms dominating many industries has reduced competition. In technology, a few major chipmakers, hardware makers, computer operating systems, business software providers as well as one search engine, e-tailer and social network act as 'control points' (a term coined by Tim Berners-Lee and Yochai Benkler).

Environmental, workplace safety, and product regulations and expansion of legal liabilities abetted by the rise of class actions have made business activities more expensive. It now costs billions of dollars to get a new drug approved for human use. An unwillingness to admit that no activity is entirely risk-free, and accidents or errors cannot be totally eliminated, affects productivity.

Short tenures and short-term performance incentives encourage managers to focus on quarterly earnings rather than risky, longer term initiatives such as research and development or staff training.

Until recently, low interest rates created zombie companies, impeding the shift of capital to more efficient enterprises. The IMF found as much as a third of the slowdown in productivity gains is from this source. Today, high rates restrict capital investment and the supply of credit to smaller and new businesses. The shift away from free trade and rising economic nationalism now also affects productivity.

Channelling a coach who thought football was not a matter of life or death but something more important, economist Paul Krugman in 1994 argued that in the long run productivity is almost everything. But improving productivity is not a panacea.

Prosperity requires balancing improved productivity against product life, quality, waste, repairability and resource scarcity. High output can create overcapacity and ignores the ability to absorb additional supply. Insofar, as productivity gains come from reduction of employment or wages, it reduces demand. Improving output without addressing issues of employment, income, inequality and conserving precious raw materials ultimately impoverishes societies.

Throwing money about is easy, but does not address any of this and isn't going to bring back sustainable growth. That requires painstaking and difficult structural changes.

(Views are personal)

MORE CAUTIONARY TALES FROM OUR EPICS

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

ENCOURAGED by your response to last week's Jataka, I am tempted to share two other stories from scripture that similarly serve as stark cautionary tales. The story of King Saudasa is from Chapter 65 of the *Uttara Kandam* of the Valmiki *Ramayana*. This seventh section of the Valmiki *Ramayana* is held to have been added later by someone else.

The story goes that Sri Rama's youngest brother, Prince Shatrughna, was out leading his army on an expedition. On his way, he arrived at the hermitage of Sage Valmiki. The sage welcomed him with fruit and water. Refreshed, Shatrughna looked around and asked who the fertile lands east of the hermitage belonged to. Valmiki told him a strange story that made even the brave warrior prince's hair stand on end.

"O Shatrughna, hear to whom this region formerly belonged," said the rishi. "One of your ancestors was King Saudasa who was valiant and virtuous. One day, while out hunting he saw two tigers killing and eating antelopes."

Forgetting the laws of nature and that he himself was out hunting to kill, Saudasa was furious and killed one of the tigers with his arrow. The dying tiger turned into a *rakshasa*. The surviving *rakshasa* wept in grief and rage. "King, you have killed my friend, who did you no harm. One day, I shall take my revenge," he snarled, and vanished.

In due course, Saudasa's son, the good, brave prince Mitrasaha, was to come to the throne. Before that, Saudasa undertook the Ashwamedha sacrifice on his son's behalf near Valmiki's ashram, with Sage Vasishta as the officiating priest.

At the close of the rites, the vengeful *rakshasa*, invisibly tracking Saudasa all these years, took on the appearance of Sage Vasishta and demanded an offering of meat from Saudasa. The king told his cooks, "Quickly prepare the *Havis* (any offering cooked in ghee) and a tasty meat dish to please my guru." The *rakshasa* then assumed the form of the head cook and prepared a savoury dish of human flesh.

When Saudasa and his queen, Madayanti, humbly offered this dish to the real Sage Vasishta, he saw through his yogic insight that it was human flesh and was enraged. He cursed Saudasa, saying, "Since it has pleased you to offer me this, this will become your food."

Thereupon Saudasa, incensed in turn, took water in his hand and was about to curse Vasishtha when his wife restrained him, saying, "Don't do this to your guru. It is wrong on many counts."

So Saudasa poured away the power-charged water and some splashed on his feet, staining them, by which he was called '*Kalmashapada*' or spotted feet. Saudasa realized whose doing it was, and told Vasistha all about the *rakshasa* who played this foul trick.

Vasishta relented at once and promised the king that though his words could not go in vain, the king would return to normal in 12 years and not remember a thing about that time. So, as promised by Vasishta, after having suffered the consequences of the curse, Saudasa recovered his kingdom and ruled justly over his subjects.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Rama's youngest brother, Prince Shatrughna, was told the cautionary tale of his ancestor, King Saudasa, by Sage Valmiki at his hermitage when the prince and his army passed by on an expedition. It made even the brave warrior prince's hair stand on end

"This fertile land is the site of the Ashwamedha sacrifice performed by *Kalmashapada*," said Valmiki to Shatrughna. Having heard this dreadful, unknown story about his ancestor, Shatrughna saluted the rishi and left with much to think about.

Another tale we ironically neglect is that of Utanka's error in the *Mahabharata's* Aashwamedhika Parva, which you may recall from this column in July. I don't blame you if you don't, as the saga of the Pandavas and Kauravas wholly throws this powerful story into the shade. However, I find it worth retelling for its strong message.

Returning to Dwaraka in his chariot, Sri Krishna passed through "a desert ill-supplied with water", where he chanced on wandering ascetic Utanka, described ominously by Vyasa as "the foremost of the learned".

Krishna and Utanka exchanged fond greetings. Utanka asked for news. He was devastated to hear about Kurukshetra and wanted to curse Krishna for letting it happen. Krishna patiently explained his avatar's purpose of restoring dharmic balance and Utanka was pacified.

He begged to see the *visvarupa*. And Krishna actually let him. So, besides Arjuna at Kurukshetra and partly Yashoda when she looked into Krishna's open mouth, it's Utanka who beheld "Vasudeva's universal form, endowed with mighty arms, blazing with the fire of a thousand suns, filling all space, with faces on every side". Overcome, Utanka said, "O You, whose handiwork is the universe, I bow to You. O parent of all things, You fill the firmament."

Krishna granted Utanka a parting boon that he would always find water when thirsty, if he thought of Him. Desperately thirsty soon after, Utanka called to Krishna, but no sparkling fountain manifested. Instead, a *chandala* ('outcaste') appeared, who invited Utanka to quench his thirst from his gourd. Outraged, Utanka refused. Despite many pleas by the Chandala, Utanka furiously said no, so finally the apparition shrugged and vanished.

Alas, it was none but Indra, lord of the celestials, who, when asked by Krishna to give Utanka a drink of *amrita*, the nectar of immortality, insisted Utanka be first put to an appropriate test.

"Your fault has been great," said Krishna to the weeping Utanka, who, understanding nothing, not even the significance of *visvarupa*-darshan, had let Krishna down badly. "However," said Krishna, "I will keep my word. Sudden clouds will shower water in the desert. They shall be called 'Utanka-clouds'." And they are—a stark reminder to transcend false divisions.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

India's service

Ref: *Yunus must face Modi-Trump wrath* (Dec 1). When Muhammad Yunus descended to Bangladesh, the world looked at him as a messiah to restore peace and order in the nation. But it was shocking to witness how he furtively allowed fundamentalists to persecute the Hindu community doing numerous yeoman services to the nation. He should remember that India liberated Bangladesh from Pakistan in 1971.

R Sridharan, Chennai

Worsening situation

The Yunus-led government seems to be doing little to control the spreading hatred in Bangladesh. India should persuade Bangladesh not to be a mute spectator to the worsening law and order situation. The exiled former PM Sheikh Hasina making critical comments against the Bangladeshi government from Indian soil will not be good for the situation either.

D V G Sankara Rao, Vizianagaram

Yunus's role

Indians had been as happy as Bangladeshis when Yunus got the Nobel Prize for the role he played in poverty alleviation. They were equally happy when he took charge of the nation's government. But most did not realise he was also a force that factored in the persecution of minorities.

J Bhagyalakshmi, email

Political inertia

Ref: *At the root of slowdown: It's politics, stupid* (Dec 1). India's economic slowdown is driven by poor governance, excessive focus on electoral sops, and inflationary pressures. Structural reforms in labour, investment, and agriculture remain stalled due to political inertia. Without addressing these systemic issues, growth potential will remain untapped.

Laishram Athoibi Chanu, Bengaluru

Landmark judgement

Ref: *Break-ups not abetment of suicide by default: SC* (Dec 1). When a girl dies by suicide, her family and society brand her lover or husband as the cause of her death by abetment. Such suicides are difficult to come to a logical conclusion by police enquiries. This judgement was landmark in that regard.

Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati

Not abetment

The Supreme Court's verdict rightly distinguishes emotional distress from criminal liability in personal relationships. By overturning the accused conviction, it emphasised that abetment of suicide requires clear evidence of intent or provocation.

Trisha Pulipaka, Bengaluru

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Narendra Modi @narendramodi
The BSF stands as a critical line of defence, embodying courage, dedication and exceptional service. Their vigilance and courage contribute to the safety and security of our nation.

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Indian economy cannot progress as long as its benefits are accruing only to a handful of billionaires, while the farmers, labourers, middle class and the poor are struggling with various economic problems.

Jawhar Sircar @jawharsircar
India's mistake to support blindly Hasina's terribly corrupt and autocratic regime — only because it was secular.

■ Bhagwat exhorts every couple to have 3 kids ■ Kharge slams attempts to order surveys on Muslim places of worship

'Decline in population growth harms society'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AMIDST discussions on population control in the country, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has ignited a new debate by advocating for a three-child norm within the Hindu society. India is currently the most populous country in the world.

Speaking at the Kathale Kul Sammelan in Nagpur on Sunday, Bhagwat emphasised the importance of family, and warned that if the population growth rate of a society falls below 2.1 per cent, it could lead to negative consequences and ultimately lead to the decline of the society.

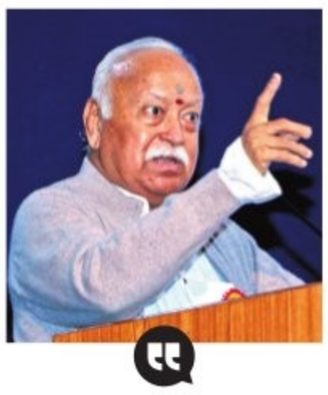
He said that the 'kutumb' (family) is part of the society and every family is a unit. "Decreasing population is a matter of concern because the Loksankhya-Shastra (demographic science) says that if we go below 2.1, then society will perish by itself," he said.

Citing the country's population policy framed either in 1998 or 2002, he stated that Indian families need at least three children per family as the population science disregards the norm of fractional children. "Our population policy also says that the population growth rate should not be below 2.1," he added.

The RSS chief urged Indian families to have at least three children, substantiating it as an imperative for the survival of the society.

Bhagwat's remarks came at a time when the ruling BJP and its like-minded allies in the NDA seem to be becoming concerned about the growing population in the country.

The exhortation has evoked criticism from some quarters. Ranjana Kumari, researcher at Delhi University, said. "When the BJP-led government wants to bring some population control measures through policy, Bhagwat's remarks are contradictory."



Decreasing population is a matter of concern because the Loksankhya-Shastra says that if we go below 2.1, then society will perish by itself

Mohan Bhagwat, RSS chief

Three-child policy

Citing India's population policy framed either in 1998 or 2002, Bhagwat said that Indian families need at least three children per family as the population science disregards the norm of fractional children.

Naidu and Stalin too

Earlier, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu sparked a debate after advocating for more children to address the falling fertility rates in South India against the national average. Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin too had expressed similar views.

'RSS not walking the talk on mosque rows'

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

IN light of tensions surrounding Jama Masjid dispute in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and Ajmer shrine in Rajasthan, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge criticised the ruling BJP for violating the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991 brazenly.

Addressing a 'Defend the Constitution Rally' in the capital on Friday, Kharge strongly opposed attempts to order surveys in several mosques to determine if a temple existed there or not. "Taj Mahal, Red Fort, Qutab Minar and Charminar in Hyderabad are built by Muslims. Will you go and demolish them as well?" he said.

The RSS is not walking the talk, said the Congress chief and reminded the BJP of RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's statement that they should stop trying to search for a temple under every mosque.

In 2022, Bhagwat asserted that the Sangh was not interested in launching any further agitations after the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and there was no need to look for shivlings in mosques now.

"The BJP came to power with the help of RSS. Why don't they listen to the RSS? A law was made in 1991 to maintain the status quo of religious places before 1947, but you are not following that either. You make the laws and you break them too," Kharge said.

The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act prohibits changing the character of religious places from how they existed on August 15, 1947.

Kharge saidsecularism is not a rejection of Hinduism but an affirmation of India's commitment to equal respect for all faiths.

"I am a Hindu by birth, but my commitment to secularism means I seek unity and peace for all, regardless of religion or background," he said.

I am a Hindu by birth, but my commitment to secularism means I seek unity and peace for all, regardless of religion or background

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

Against demolitions

Addressing a rally at Ramlila Maidan, Kharge asked whether the BJP leaders will demolish structures, such as the Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar or Char Minar in Hyderabad, which were constructed by Muslims.

What law stipulates

Kharge said a law was made in 1991 to maintain status quo. The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act prohibits changing the character of religious places from how they existed on August 15, 1947.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

Jharkhand Cabinet Formation

SOREN TO INDUCT MINISTERS IN NEW GOVT ON DEC 5

Hemant Soren, who assumed office as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand for a second consecutive term on November 28, is likely to appoint ministers in the new government on December 5. Soren had taken the oath alone on November 28 after securing an impressive victory in the state assembly elections. Sources said Soren proceeded with the oath-taking alone because his alliance partners, the Congress and the RJD, were not ready with the names of the ministers to be sworn in alongside him. The RJD, which has four MLAs in the new assembly, had been insisting on two ministerial berths, while Soren had offered only one. The Congress, which had four ministers in the previous government, has been offered the same number in the new cabinet. However, its demands for the posts of Deputy Chief Minister and Speaker in the assembly were rejected by the Chief Minister. According to sources, both the Congress and the RJD have accepted Soren's offer, and preparations for the swearing-in ceremony have begun in Ranchi. The Chief Minister has convened the first session of the new assembly on December 9, during which his government will seek a trust vote to prove its majority. The 81-member Jharkhand assembly can have a maximum of 12 ministers, including the Chief Minister. Hemant Soren's JMM, having won 34 seats, will have six ministers, while the Congress, with 16 MLAs in the new House, will get four, and the RJD will have one. The CPI(ML), which won two seats as part of the INDIA bloc led by the JMM, is not seeking any ministerial berths.

Jaishankar to brief House about developments in India-China talks today

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AMID a thaw in India-China ties, External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** is set to make a statement in Lok Sabha on Monday on the 'recent developments in India-China relations'.

In October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in Russia's Kazan on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit. This came close on the heels of India and China firming up an agreement on patrolling by their militaries along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh.

Following this, Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro in the second week of November. The leaders discussed progress in the disengagement and bilateral ties.

The Opposition parties have been demanding more information from the government on the 'breakthrough' as a confidence-building measure.

After the external affairs ministry's announcement on disengagement in the border, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "While we await fuller details of the agreement reached between India and China, it is pertinent to recall that Parliament was not allowed an opportunity for a discussion on the border situation even once these past four-and-a-half years," he said.

Both Houses of Parliament have not been functioning since the winter session began on November 25.

Oppn demand

The Opposition parties have been demanding more information from the government on the China 'breakthrough' as a confidence-building measure.

Post-Independence history gave credit only to select heroes, says Dhankhar

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

VICE-PRESIDENT Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday expressed deep concern over the "manipulation and distortion of India's history," stating that it has marginalised several heroes who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function celebrating the birth anniversary of freedom fighter, journalist and revolutionary Raja Mahendra Pratap, Dhankhar said history books have been unjust to several unsung heroes of India.

"Our history has been manipulated and doctored, creating a monopoly of a few who are credited with gaining us independence," he remarked, describing the distortion as an unbearable pain and a burden on India's soul and heart.

Terming Mahendra Pratap a "symbol of nationalism, patriotism, and farsightedness," the V-P lamented the lack of recognition for such figures in the historical narrative, saying, "What a travesty of justice, what a tragedy. We are in the 75th year of our independence. We have failed, miserably failed, to recognise such heroic feats of this great man. Our history has not given him the place he deserves."

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar speaks at the 138th birth anniversary celebration of Raja Mahendra Pratap at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Sunday | PTI

Dhankhar underscored the need to address the selective portrayal of history, saying, "We cannot nurture our history by bestowing indulgent, sycophant credit rating to those who played a role of course, but not the role which others played."

He emphasised the importance of presenting unvarnished historical accounts to inspire patriotic fervor among current and future generations. "Nobody can allow heroes of the country to be downsized," the Vice-President asserted.

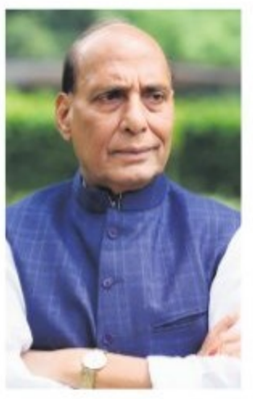
Shifting focus to farmers, the Dhankhar advocated for their welfare, stressing that a prosperous India in 2047 is possible only through the well-being of farmers. He called for the resolution of farmers' issues through dialogue and mutual understanding, affirming, "My doors are open for farmers round the clock. The passage to a developed Bharat begins from the land of the farmers."

Urging a harmonious approach, he remarked, "We must remember that we do not fight with our own people. We deceive the enemy, but not our own."

Defence Ties

RAJNATH TO VISIT RUSSIA FOR SU-30 ENGINE TOT

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit Russia in the second week of December to explore the possibility of signing a transfer of technology (ToT) agreement for the manufacture of AL-31FP engines, which are used in the Sukhoi Su-30 fighters.



India is currently in the process of indigenising the production of fighter aircraft. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a public sector defence production company, has already commenced production of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and is working on advanced versions of the aircraft. These aircraft have been indigenously designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency. However, India does not yet possess the expertise to manufacture engines for these aircraft domestically, and the engines are currently procured from other countries. An agreement between HAL and General Electric of the United States to produce GE414 aircraft engines in India has encountered difficulties. India is now exploring a transfer of technology agreement with Russia to locally manufacture aircraft engines. Sources indicate that India plans to procure 240 AL-31FP engines to address its immediate need to upgrade the Su-30MKI fighters currently in service with the Indian Air Force. The country also aims to produce these engines domestically for future requirements. These engines may also be utilized for the Russian-origin fighters that make up a significant part of the IAF inventory. The HAL chairman is already in Moscow to lay the groundwork for the Defence Minister's visit.

AIDS Day: India's efforts lowered HIV cases by 44% in 13 years, says Nadda

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA'S sustained efforts have ensured a low HIV epidemic level over the years, with new infections in the country in 2023 almost 44 per cent lower than in 2010, while AIDS-related deaths have declined by 79 per cent, Union Health Minister JP Nadda said on Sunday.

On the World AIDS Day, the health ministry released data that said HIV prevalence in adults continues to be high in Mizoram and Nagaland, closely followed by Manipur. The rising trend in Punjab is a cause for concern.

According to the India HIV Estimates Technical Report, Prevention Progress Update 2023-2024, even with the low prevalence, India still has a significant HIV burden with an estimated 25.44 lakh AIDS patients in 2023. Women aged above 15 accounted for 44 per cent of the burden, while nearly 3 per cent of the cases were among children.

Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana, among other states, have an estimated adult prevalence of higher than 0.4 per cent (the national prevalence stands at 0.2 per cent).

Speaking at a function in Madhya Pradesh, Nadda said India has adopted a "90-90-90" target for combating AIDS, which includes the target of detecting 90 per cent of AIDS cases, 90 per cent of people to be treated with antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 90 per cent to have their viral load suppressed.

The minister said this target was later increased to 95-95-95, of which 81 per cent people with AIDS have been identified, 88 per cent are being given ART and the viral load of 97 per cent people have been suppressed.

Union health minister JP Nadda with Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav visits an exhibition at Hunat Haat in Indore on Sunday | PTI

Railways launches AI-based bedroll inspection tech

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Indian Railways has implemented an Artificial Intelligence-based system to inspect and sort linens such as bed sheets and towels provided to passengers in the air-conditioned coaches.

The AI-powered Linen Inspection and Sorting Assistant (LISA) was developed by the Pune division of Indian Railways and was recently inaugurated by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav at the laundry facilities of the Ghorpadi Integrated Coaching Complex (GICC).

The LISA system is an advanced AI-based automation machine designed to ensure 100% quality inspection of bed sheets used in trains.

According to Dileep Kumar, executive director (information and publicity) at the Ministry of Railways, "Utilising state-of-the-art artificial intelligence, LISA meticulously inspects each bed sheet for any defects, stains or damage, ensuring that passengers receive only the highest quality linens during their travel."

HIGH-TECH IN TRAINS
INDIAN RAILWAYS' PUNE DIVISION HAS DEVELOPED AI-POWERED LINEN INSPECTION AND SORTING ASSISTANT (LISA)
First pilot installation of LISA at Ghorpadi Integrated Coaching Complex in Pune
LISA meticulously inspects each bed sheet for defects, stains or damage
The technology streamlines Railways operations, reduces manual labour, and elevates the standard of passenger amenities
The system will inspect and sort linens, such as bed sheets and towels provided to passengers in AC coaches
Advanced AI algorithms ensure precise and reliable inspection results
It can process large volumes of linens quickly

He highlighted that it has come as a transformative move for Indian Railways, automating and enhancing the linen management process. "By integrating this cutting-edge technology, the Railways aims to streamline operations, reduce manual labour, and elevate the standard of passenger amenities," Kumar added.

He mentioned that it ensures 100% quality inspection and performs thorough checks to detect and segregate substandard linens. "Advanced AI algorithms ensure precise and reliable inspection results. And it can process large volumes of linens quickly, significantly improving operational efficiency. By ensuring high-quality linens, it contributes to a more comfortable and hygienic travel experience," he explained.

Kumar also stated that the Railways is committed to utilising AI and automation to foster innovation and efficiency. "The pilot installation at GICC in Pune is the first step towards a broader deployment of this system across the Indian Railways network," he said.

Emphasising that the Railways has significantly improved the cleaning frequency of blankets provided to passengers in AC classes over the years, the Railways official noted that the cleaning interval, which was three months in 2010, was reduced to two months and further shortened to 15 days in 2016.

Railway Tent City at Mahakumbh 2025

Indian Railways will set up a Gram Tent City initiative during the Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, scheduled to begin from January 14 to February 26 next year. The Gram Tent City is strategically located near the bathing ghats and offers premium accommodations at a cost of ₹6,000 plus taxes per person per night, and including breakfast. The premium tents are designed for comfort, provide medical support and exceptional hospitality, as per a senior official of the Indian Railways.

INTERNET BAN

The Manipur government extended the suspension of mobile internet for two days in nine districts till December 3. The suspension was extended in Imphal West, Imphal East, Kakching, Bishnupur, Thoubal, among others.

3 HURT | 1 KILLED IN TUNNEL COLLAPSE IN KOTA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	28	18	Mumbai	32	26
Bhopal	26	14	Panaji	31	24
Jaipur	26	14	Patna	26	16
Amritsar	23	12	Lucknow	26	12
Chennai	28	26	Port Blair	29	26
Kolkata	25	21	Imphal	24	11
Srinagar	10	00	Chandigarh	24	11

Over a month into power, Omar, L-G avoid tussle

Sinha cleared statehood resolution; CM didn't react to staff sacking

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

> As long as the CM does not take up any contentious issue, the bonding will continue. There will be issues if the CM wants to replace chief secretary and go for bureaucratic reshuffle
>
> Noor Mohammad Baba, political observer

UNLIKE tense relations between the Delhi government and Lt Governor, there has been no tussle between Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister **Omar Abdullah** and Lt Governor **Manoj Sinha** despite passage of resolutions on restoration of statehood and special status, and not inviting the CM to security review meetings.

On October 16, Omar was sworn in as first CM of J&K union territory. With the real power lying with the Lt Governor in J&K UT after abrogation of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K state into UTs, there has been no tension between Omar and Sinha.

Sinha cleared the cabinet resolution on restoration of statehood. He also did not publicly disapprove of the Assembly resolution on restoration of J&K's special status but said at a function in UP that discussions on restoring Article 370 are irrelevant as the SC has upheld its abrogation.

Omar has also not reacted over not being invited by Sinha to the security review meetings. The LG sacked two more government employees on November 29 despite NC in its poll manifesto pledging to review cases of terminated employees. The CM has not given any statement on the sacking.

Political observer Noor Mohammad Baba said the persons holding the offices matter as their mutual chemistry makes a big impact. "If both remain within their limits, things may not crop up," he said.

Baba said resolution on restoration of statehood was not contentious as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have assured that statehood would be restored. "The Assembly resolution on restoration of special status was purely recommendatory in nature. I don't think there was anything that L-G had to do on it," he said. "As long as the CM does not take up any contentious issue, the bonding will continue. There will be issues if the CM wants to replace chief secretary and go for bureaucratic reshuffle."

Political analyst Faisal Ahmed said, "Abdullahs have waited for 10 years and can wait for some more time to wrest full control of J&K from LG. As of now Omar does not want to annoy the Centre," he said.

Nitish to launch women outreach drive on Dec 15

RAMASHANAR @ Patna

BIHAR Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is all set to embark on yet another statewide journey, 'Mahila Samvad Yatra' from December 15 with an objective to interact with women to make on-the-spot assessment of execution of various schemes launched to 'enable' women to become economically independent and self-reliant.

Nitish's dialogue with women assumes special significance as they apparently emerged as election clinchers in the recently held assembly polls in Jharkhand and Maharashtra. In Bihar, Nitish has been able to create a broad support base among women by executing various schemes for their welfare but more importantly by enforcing complete prohibition in the state in 2016.

Assembly election is due in Bihar in October-November next year. Like on previous occasions, Nitish once again will start his 'yatra' from Valmikinagar in West Champaran district. Besides holding discussions with women, including Jeevika Didis (women working with Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society), Nitish will also review implementation of development schemes and execution of various schemes under his 'Saat Nischay Part 1 and Part 2 schemes'.

Soren awaits Cong nod on berths as talks shift to Delhi

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE Cabinet expansion in Jharkhand is likely to take place on December 5 as state Congress president Keshav Mahato Kamlesh is camping in Delhi for two days after having discussions with Chief Minister **Hemant Soren** on allocation of berths, sources said.

"Kamlesh is having a discussion with the top Congress leadership on the CM's suggestions. The final decision on ministerial names from the Congress quota will be taken by the party high command. The CM will then be informed of the decision," said a party leader aware of the development.

The cabinet expansion is getting delayed as there was a deadlock on the number of ministerial berths to be allocated to the alliance partners. It was not finalised whether there should be one minister for every four MLAs or a 5:1 formula.

"But since the state Congress president has been camping in Delhi after a discussion with CM Soren, it seems that that deadlock over the formula has been resolved," the party leader said.

According to sources, the cabinet expansion may take place on December 3 or 5 depending upon the Congress high command's go-ahead. Besides the CM, six MLAs from JMM, four from the Congress and one from RJD are likely to be made ministers.

Meanwhile, almost all the newly elected Congress MLAs are camping in Delhi to secure ministerial berths. The CPI (ML) which has won two Assembly seats this time has made it clear that it does not want any ministerial post, but will support the government from outside.

"The party will think about getting a Cabinet berth only if it gets 8-10 Assembly seats," CPI (ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said.

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
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Raje's surprise visit sparks buzz in BJP circles

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister and BJP National Vice President Vasundhara Raje made a surprise appearance at the BJP headquarters on Sunday. Her visit came in the wake of the party's victory in five out of seven assembly by-elections. Notably, CM Bhajanlal Sharma, state in-charge Radha Mohandas Agarwal, and state president Madan Rathod were conspicuously absent during Raje's visit. Adding fuel to the fire, the appearance marked Raje's return to the party office after a three-and-a-half-month hiatus. Just a day earlier, Raje stirred controversy during a meeting by comparing her political adversaries to snakes.

Meena's gambit puts Bhajanlal in hot water

Dr. Kirori Lal Meena has once again ensured that the Bhajanlal Sharma government stays in the spotlight for all the wrong reasons! Just days ahead of the grand 'Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit', Meena's surprise visit to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) headquarters has sparked a fresh wave of chatter. Accompanied by 92-year-old NRI Dr. Raj Khare, Meena claimed that Dr. Khare had invested in Rajasthan to set up a veterinary college now valued at ₹4,000–₹5,000 crore. The twist? The prized property has allegedly been grabbed by anti-social elements, leaving the elderly investor knocking on every door for justice.

MLA's bold demand stirs gossip mills in Dausa

BJP MLA Rajendra Meena from Mahuva, Dausa became the talk of the town on Friday after laying down an unusual condition for the Patwaris seeking donations. The officials from the Patwar Union approached Meena, requesting funds to build a rest house. Meena said, "I'll even give you ₹50 lakh—if you give me an affidavit promising not to take a single rupee for work in return!" However, after some assurance from the officials, Meena committed to donating ₹20 lakh. A video of the entire episode quickly made its way to social media, setting off a flurry of speculation.

Rio for peaceful solution to Naga political issue

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

NAGALAND Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio called for early resolution of the protracted "Naga political issue" at the 62nd statehood day on Sunday.

Addressing the crowd at the inaugural function of 10-day-long and 25th edition of Hornbill Festival at Naga heritage village Kisama, he said acting on the decisions taken at a meeting, he met Home Minister Amit Shah on November 21.

The CM said he had reiterated the urgency in finding a solution and discussed various issues including a recent press statement by NSCN-IM chief political negotiator Thuingaleng Muivah.

Recently, Muivah had threatened that NSCN-IM would return to violent ways if the Centre refused its proposal for third-party intervention to address the Naga political issue.

Stating that resolving the Naga political issue remains a top priority, Rio said the formation of new "UG groups" and their internal divisions posed significant challenges. Earlier, the Centre signed separate agreements with NSCN-IM and a conglomerate of some other extremist groups.

10-year jail term as Raj cabinet clears stringent anti-conversion bill

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

THE ruling BJP in Rajasthan has decided to introduce a tough law to prevent forced religious conversions in the state. A draft bill, containing several stringent provisions, will be introduced during the upcoming Assembly session.

A cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhajan lal finalised the decision on Saturday.

Deputy CM Dr Premchand Bairwa and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Jogaram Patel, said that the proposed law would prohibit individuals or institutions from using deceit, pressure, or other coercive means to force someone to change their religion. If a marriage is conducted with the intent of religious conversion, family courts will have the authority to declare such marriages as invalid.

The proposed bill mandates that individuals wishing to voluntarily change their religion must inform the District Collector at least 60 days in advance. This provision aims to ensure transparency and prevent coercion. The District Magistrate will investigate the matter and grant permission only if the conversion is found to be voluntary and free from inducements or any undue influence. The law will classify offences under its purview as non-bailable and cognizable, with penalties of up to 10 years of imprisonment for proven cases of forced conversion.

The bill is likely to include provisions from its own Religious Freedom Bill of 2008, which was passed twice during the Vasundhara Raje government but failed to secure central approval.

Special focus is being given to addressing the issue in tribal areas, where such activities are reportedly prevalent. The bill may include harsh penalties, including imprisonment of 0-10 years and a fine of ₹50,000, for cases involving children, women, and from SC/STs.

The government is considering making the registration of live-in relationships mandatory. "Rajasthan government is committed to stop illegal religious conversion," the chief minister posted on X.

Will back BJP choice for CM, meet today on govt formation, says Shinde

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde addresses a press conference in Satara on Sunday| PTI

Fadnavis front-runner for top post

According to BJP sources, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis is the front-runner for the top post. However, the party is yet to announce its newly elected MLAs' meeting where the BJP legislative party leader will be elected. The elected leader of the BJP will take oath as CM of Maha Yuti on December 5 at Azad Maidan in Mumbai.

MAHARASHTRA'S caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said he will support the BJP's decision on the new CM, ruling out differences among Maha Yuti allies over the government formation.

Addressing the media in his village Daregaon in Satara district, Shinde said Maha Yuti leaders will discuss and decide on CM's name at a meeting in Mumbai on Monday.

According to BJP sources, Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis is the front-runner for the top post. However, the party is yet to announce its newly elected MLAs' meeting where the BJP legislative party leader will be elected. The elected leader of the BJP will take oath as CM of Maha Yuti on December 5 at Azad Maidan in Mumbai in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Asked whether he had asked for the deputy CM post for his son Shrikant Shinde as well as home, urban development ministries and assembly speaker post, Shinde refused to give a clear answer. He said Maha Yuti allies -- BJP, NCP and Shiv Sena -- will sit together and decide portfolio allocations through consensus. "I have already said the decision on CM's post taken by PM Modi and union minister Amit Shah will be acceptable to me and Shiv Sena and will have my full backing," Shinde said.

Addressing the media in his native village Daregaon in Satara district, Shinde reiterated that earlier in his press conference, he already clarified that whatever decision over the government formation and chief minister will be taken by prime minister Narendra Modi and union minister Amit Shah that will be acceptable to him.

After returning to Mumbai on Sunday, he said, "I had gone to my village to recuperate from illness. I was down with fever so decided to take a break. I am now in good health."

Shinde added, "We will provide a government that people want. Our responsibility has now grown because of the massive mandate people gave as reciprocation of our work."

Candlelight vigil marks Bhopal tragedy anniv

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

Diksha Tiwari with her 2023 international basketball silver medal, and special kids of Bhopal Gas Tragedy survivors observing candle light vigil | EXPRESS

CHILDREN with intellectual and physical deformities in the families affected by the 1984 Bhopal Gas Tragedy are determined to leave the past behind. They want to create a niche in the world of para-sports.

At the forefront is 17-year-old Disha Tiwari, whose intellectual disability disorder (IDD) has failed to prevent her from shooting to success in the basketball arena.

Eldest among the three children of Mahesh Tiwari and Arti Tiwari, Disha was part of the Indian team, which won the silver medal in the basketball event of the Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023.

"Health hazards emanating from the gas leak of 1984 have become part and parcel. Two of my three children, Disha and Rishi (10) suffer from the same intellectual disabilities, while Avdhesh is bright in studies. Disha, however, with the help of experts is determined at making big in basketball and short distance running. We're proud of her work ethics," said Mahesh, whose health problems cost him his driver's job three months back. Disha relieved the fond memories of the 2023 Germany games silver medal finish, besides silver and gold medals in similar national tournaments since 2022. "I took to basketball two years back and remember winning the second place, after narrowly losing to Sweden in the title clash in Berlin in June 2023. In five years," said Disha, who is also preparing for her Class X exam through the MP state Open School.

Joining Disha in the pursuit sporting success are ten more teenagers and youngsters. The talented bunch (which represent the first generation of those who were kids when affected by the poisonous disaster), include Huzefa Khan and Arhan Khan (13), Ahmad Ameen and Satyam Sahu (14), Nisha Hakeem (15), Mutallib (18), Ashok Singh and Aman Anwar (19), Sana Khan (21) and Shahid Khan (23).

Another promising talent is Sana Khan (21), whose mother Shakila Khan, was among the residents of the JP Nagar locality, possibly the worst hit area of Bhopal tragedy.

"My daughter's grit and focus on basketball and athletics, despite suffering from intellectual as well as hearing problems, is our motivator to leave behind our poisonous past," said Shakila Khan.

These specially enabled children mourned the loss of lives with candlelight vigil in JP Nagar locality on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the tragedy on Sunday. Joining them were Chingari Trust members, who for 18 years are engaged in the rehabilitation of congenitally disabled children born in families affected by the tragedy and the subsequent water contamination in at least 42 municipal wards of the MP capital.

"We've been working with these children afflicted with different forms of congenital disabilities, including IDD, down's syndrome and muscular dystrophy with a dedicated team of physiotherapist, speech and occupational therapists, besides sports, music and arts experts free of cost. There are 1300-plus children who are registered with the trust, but owing to shortage of resources, we are able to provide regular services to just 300," said Chingari Trust's managing trustee Rasheeda Bee and speech therapist Nousheen Khan.

Punjab village bans marriage with outsiders, violators to face music

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

A village in Punjab's Mansa district has passed a resolution prohibiting the villagers from marrying outsiders (migrants) and has banned intra-village marriages. Locals who violate the law will face expulsion from the village.

Though the panchayat of Jawaharke village had passed the resolution to stop villagers from solemnising marriage with outsiders (migrants) and between people of the same village on November 24, it was made public on November 30.

Justifying the panchayat's move, a villager said outsiders often marry the villagers to become village residents. To stop this practice, the village panchayat has passed the resolution. The same applies to those who marry someone from the same village. "This trend of getting married to outsiders and intra-village is not appreciated by the villagers," said another villager.

The panchayat also decided against supporting those found indulged in drug peddling. No villager will stand as witness or arrange for bail of anyone involved in drug-related cases.

Sukhchain Singh, the husband of village sarpanch Ranvir Kaur, said, "There was an immediate need of the measure as there is a market near the village where many migrants reside. Many marriages between the migrants and women in the village have taken place. The girls of the village are our daughters. Hence, we passed this resolution, which all panchayat members and locals supported, but our decision has been misrepresented."

The village has approximately 3,500 voters, of which nearly 300 are migrants from other states. This is not the first incident regarding restrictions on migrants. During the recent panchayat elections in several villages where migrants had filed nomination papers as sarpanch candidates, it resulted in confrontations. In the Rhode village in Moga, a migrant candidate fought the polls but lost.

On August 24, announcements were made in Kaudi village in Khanna prohibiting the entry of migrants.

No support to drug peddlers

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$220mn
is paid by City of New York for renting the Roosevelt hotel owned by Pakistan

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	5	-4	SNY	Los Angeles	24	10	SNY
Colombo	32	27	SNY	Melbourne	31	18	SNY
Dhaka	30	19	SNY	Moscow	1	1	SNY
Dubai	26	21	SNY	New York	5	-1	SNY
Houston	20	9	SNY	Singapore	32	26	LR
Istanbul	14	11	LR	Toronto	3	-3	SNY
London	11	3	LC	Washington	7	2	SNY

Syria launches counterattacks to halt insurgents from advancing

Military rushed reinforcements to northwest, launched air strikes on city of Aleppo, Idlib

BEIRUT

THE Syrian military rushed reinforcements to the country's northwest and launched airstrikes on a major city on Sunday in an attempt to push back insurgents who seized the country's largest city of Aleppo in a surprise offensive.

The insurgency, led by jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, launched their campaign on Wednesday with a two-pronged attack on Aleppo and the countryside around Idlib, before moving toward neighbouring Hama province.

On Sunday, government troops created a "strong defensive line" in northern Hama, according to Britain-based opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, as they attempted to stall the insurgents' momentum. Meanwhile, jets pounded the cities of Idlib and Aleppo, killing at least 15 people, according to a group that operates in opposition-held areas.

The surge in fighting has raised the prospect of another violent, destabilising front reopening in the Middle East at a time when Israel is fighting Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, conflicts that have repeatedly threatened to ignite an even wider regional war. It also risks drawing Russia and Turkey — each with its own interests to protect in Syria — into direct heavy fighting against each other.

People on Sunday check the damage caused by a Syrian airforce strike in rebel-held northern city of Idlib | AFP

The insurgents announced their offensive on Wednesday, just as a ceasefire between Hezbollah and Israel began, raising some hope that tensions in the region might be calming.

The surprise offensive is a huge embarrassment for Syrian President Bashar Assad — whose forces have been fighting insurgents in a civil war since 2011. It comes at a time when his allies — Iran and and Russia — are preoccupied with their own conflicts.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is expected in the Syrian capital of Damascus later Sunday. He told reporters that Tehran will back the Syrian government and army. Arab leaders, including Jordan's King Abdullah II and United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, also called Assad to express their solidarity.

The insurgents took over most of Aleppo on Saturday and made gains in the surrounding province, including capturing a military academy and a strategic town that lies on the highway linking the city with Damascus and the coast.

Elsewhere, rebel commander Col Hassan Abdulghani said the insurgents advanced in the countryside around Idlib, putting all of the province under their control. *AP*

Armed-gang looting in Gaza forces UN to halt aid supply

DEIR AL-BALAH

The UN agency for Palestinian refugees said on Sunday it is halting aid deliveries through the main cargo crossing into the war-ravaged Gaza Strip because of the threat of armed gangs who have looted recent convoys. It blamed the breakdown of law and order in large part on Israeli policies.

The decision could worsen the humanitarian crisis in Gaza as the cold, rainy winter sets in, with hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in squalid tent camps and reliant on international food aid. Experts were already warning of famine in the territory's north, which Israeli forces have almost completely isolated since early October.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of UNRWA, the main aid provider in Gaza, said the route leading to the Kerem Shalom crossing is too dangerous on the Gaza side. Armed men looted nearly 100 trucks traveling on the route in mid-November, and he said gangs stole a smaller shipment on Saturday.

Kerem Shalom is the only crossing between Israel and Gaza that is designed for cargo shipments and has been the main artery for aid deliveries since the Rafah crossing with Egypt was shut down in May.

Palestinians check the devastation in front of a building in central Gaza on Sunday | AFP

Last month, nearly two-thirds of all aid entering Gaza came through Kerem Shalom, and in previous months it accounted for an even larger amount, according to Israeli figures. In a post on X, Lazzarini largely blamed Israel for the breakdown of humanitarian operations in Gaza, citing "political decisions to restrict the amounts of aid," lack of safety on aid routes and Israel's targeting of the Hamas-run police force, which had previously provided public security.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on the decision. Israel says it allows enough aid into Gaza and blames UNRWA and other agencies for failing to deliver it. It accuses UNRWA of having allowed Hamas to infiltrate its ranks — allegations denied by the UN agency — and passed legislation to sever ties with it last month. *AP*

Negotiators fail to reach treaty to curb plastic pollution

BUSAN

NEGOTIATORS have failed to reach agreement on a landmark treaty to curb plastic pollution, the diplomat chairing the talks said on Sunday, calling for additional time to continue discussions.

Nearly 200 nations are in South Korea's Busan for negotiations that are supposed to result in a landmark accord after two years of discussions.

But a week of talks has failed to resolve deep divisions between "high-ambition" countries seeking a globally binding agreement to limit production and phase out harmful chemicals, and "like-minded" nations who want to focus on waste.

A draft text released on Sunday afternoon after multiple delays included a wide range of options, making clear the ongoing level of disagreement.

When an open plenary session finally convened late Sunday night, chair Luis Vayas Valdivieso said progress had been made. But he acknowledged "we must also recognise that a few critical issues still prevent us from reaching a comprehensive agreement."

"These unresolved issues remain challenging and additional time will be needed to address them effectively.

"There is a general agreement to resume the current session at a later date to conclude our negotiations," he added.

Earlier, delegations seeking an treaty warned that a handful of countries were steadfastly blocking progress. While countries have declined to directly name those preventing a deal, public statements and submissions have shown mostly oil-producing nations including Saudi Arabia and Russia have sought to block production cuts and other goals. *AFP*

South Korean environment activists protest in Busan, South Korea, on Sunday | AP

A woman sits in a Kyiv cafe with no electricity following Russian strikes | AFP

Putin signs off record defence spend, as top EU officials meet Zelenskyy

KYIV

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin approved budget plans, raising 2025 military spending to record levels as Moscow seeks to prevail in the war in Ukraine. Around 32.5% of the budget posted on a government website on Sunday has been allocated for national defence, amounting to 13.5 trillion rubles (over $145 billion), up from a reported 28.3% this year.

Lawmakers in both houses of the Russian parliament, the State Duma and Federation Council, had already approved the plans in the past 10 days.

New European Council President Antonio Costa and EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas arrived in Kyiv on Sunday, marking their first day in office with a strong message of support for Ukraine. Their visit comes as doubts are deepening over what Kyiv can expect from a new US administration.

"From day one of the war, the EU has stood by the side of Ukraine," Costa posted on X, together with a photo of himself, Kallas and EU enlargement chief Marta Kos. Speaking at a news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Costa reiterated the EU's recent commitment to help Ukraine continue through the war, including $4.4 billion support. *AP*

B'desh immigration stops ISKCON devotees from crossing into India

DHAKA

DOZENS of ISKCON members who possessed valid travel documents were turned back on Sunday by Bangladesh's immigration police from Benapole border crossing when they tried to cross into India, a media report said. "We consulted the special branch of police and received instructions from the higher authorities not to permit them (to cross the border)," Imtiaz Ahsanul Quader Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge (OC) of the Benapole Immigration Police, was quoted as saying by *The Daily Star* newspaper. The ISKCON members reportedly had valid passports and visas but "lacked specific government permission" required for their travel, Bhuiyan said.

"They cannot proceed without such approval," he said. The 54 members, including devotees from various districts, arrived at the check post on Saturday night and Sunday morning. However, even after waiting for hours for permission, they were informed their travel was not authorised.

"We came to participate in a religious ceremony taking place in India but immigration officials stopped us, citing the absence of government permission," said Saurabh Tapandar Cheli, one of the ISKCON members. The latest development comes as the organisation is under scanner in Bangladesh following the arrest of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in a sedition case.

A court in Bangladesh has set December 3 as the date for his bail hearing, according to a media report. *PTI*

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients 1) Smt. Nagarathna N., W/o Late Siddaramu and her daughter Smt. Padma S.N., have entered into an agreement of sale dated 15.11.2024 with the owner of the schedule property Sri. K.Ravi Kumar, S/o Late K.Krishnappa, residing at (Schedule Property) Bangalore to purchase the schedule property for valuable sale consideration amount.

Hence, Person/s, Company/s, Bank/s, Financial Institution/s or anyone asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the documents thereof, or against the owners of the schedule property by objecting to such sale transaction in favour of my clients should write to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** of the issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which such person/s basing or asserting his/her/their claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any part thereof. If no claim or objection is received from me or my clients within the said period, my clients shall proceed to complete the sale transaction on the basis that there are no claims or objections of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule property from any one.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable House Property bearing Old Site No.332, New Site No.323/343, BBMP Sl.No.348, Khata No.36/323/343, PID No.323/343, situated at Sanjay nagar, Marathahalli, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, present BBMP Ward No.86, measuring East to West: 20 feet and North to South : 30 feet, in all measuring 600 sq. feet consisting of ground and four upper floors, having a total built up area of 30 squares, and bounded on the:

EAST by :	Road;
WEST by :	Property belongs to Munilakshmamma,
North by :	Property belongs to Clement; and
South by :	Property belongs to Chandrabeyi

S.R.RAVISHANKAR, Advocate
No.22/1/99, Gowrishankara Nilaya, 8th Cross, Orchard School Road, Vasanthapura Main Road, Konanakunte Cross, Bangalore - 560062.
Mob: 9448446795.
Bangalore, Dated: 01.12.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Shinkuben Rajpurohit, W/o Sri. Ishawar Rajpurohit, has entered into agreement of sale with the present owner of the schedule property **SRI. M.JAYA KUMAR**, S/o Late Muniswamy, Aged about 75 years, Residing at No.38, Asha Kirana Layout, 11th Main, 10th Cross, Gnanabharathi, 1st Stage, R.V.Nikethan, Bangalore - 560059.

Hence, Person/s, Company/s, Bank/s, Financial Institution/s or anyone asserting any right, title, interest or claim in the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the documents thereof, or against the owners of the schedule property by objecting to such sale transaction in favour of my client should write to the undersigned within **FIFTEEN DAYS** of the issuance of this public notice with all documentary proof on which such person/s basing or asserting his/her/their claim, right, title or interest over the schedule property or any part thereof. If no claim or objection is received from me or my client within the said period, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction on the basis that there are no claims or objections of whatsoever nature with regard to the sale of the schedule property from any one.

SCHEDULE

ITEM NO.1: All that piece and parcel of the NORTHERN PORTION of the immovable House Property bearing No.54, PID No.77-12-54, situated at 7th Cross Road, B.T.Muniyappa Road, Sampangirama Nagar, Bangalore 560 027, presently within the limits of BBMP Ward No.110 (Old Ward No.77), measuring East to West : 40 feet and North to South : 14.48 feet, in all measuring 579 sq. feet and bounded on the:

EAST BY :	Private property;
WEST BY :	Private property;
NORTH BY :	Private property;
SOUTH BY :	Remaining portion of the property bearing No.54/1 inclusive of a common passage and Thereafter road.

ITEM NO.2: All that piece and parcel of the SOUTHERN PORTION of the immovable House Property bearing No.54/1, PID No.77-12-54/1, situated at 7th Cross Road, B.T.Muniyappa Road, Sampangirama Nagar, Bangalore 560 027, presently within the limits of BBMP Ward No.110 (Old Ward No.77), measuring East to West : 22 feet and North to South : 25 feet, in all measuring 550 sq. feet along with structures standing therein having a total built up area of 1100 sq. feet, consisting of ground and first floors RCC roofed structures, and bounded on the :

EAST BY :	Gullappa's property;
WEST BY :	5 feet passage and thereafter Muniyellappa's Property;
NORTH BY :	Portion of property bearing No.54;
SOUTH BY :	B.T.Muniyappa Road (7th Cross Road).

ITEM NO.3: All that piece and parcel of the WESTERN PORTION of the immovable Property bearing No.54/1, PID No.77-12-54/1, situated at 7th Cross Road, B.T.Muniyappa Road, Sampangirama Nagar, Bangalore 560 027, presently within the limits of BBMP Ward No.110 (Old Ward No.77), measuring East to West : 5 feet and North to South : 25.8 feet, in all measuring 129 sq. feet and bounded on the:

EAST BY :	Property bearing No.54/1;
WEST BY :	Muniyellappa's property;
NORTH BY :	Portion of the property bearing No.54;
SOUTH BY :	B.T.Muniyappa Road (7th Cross Road).

S.R.RAVISHANKAR, Advocate
No.22/1/99, Gowrishankara Nilaya, 8th Cross, Orchard School Road, Vasanthapura Main Road, Konanakunte Cross, Bangalore - 560062.
Mob: 9448446795.
Bangalore, Dated: 01.12.2024

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Construction) Western Railway DRM's Office, Annex Building 3rd Floor Do-Batti RATLAM (M.P.) 457 001, invites **Tender Notice No.: EL-C-RTM-EPC-01-2024-25. Name of Work:** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 03 Nos. 132/25 KV Traction Sub-station at Dhar, Jhabua and Dr. Ambedkar Nagar & 06 Nos. Switching posts at Tihi, Sagore, Gunawad, Dahod, Katwara & Pitol in connection with New line between Dahod-Indore Section and Electrification work between Dr. Ambedkar Nagar - Khandwa section of Ratlam Division of Western Railway. **Approx Value:** ₹ 43,34,90,259/-. **Bid Deposit:** ₹ 23,17,500/-. **Online Bidding Start Date:** 23.12.2024. **Tender Closing Date:** On 06.01.2025 at 15:00. **Website particulars and Notice Board:** During the working hours in person or at the mentioned above office address & telephone No. 07412 233996; contact E-mail: **dyceecrtm@gmail.com.** For further details please visit our website **www.ireps.gov.in** 0779

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that Our client **Sri. Nanjundaiah. K.B., S/o. Boraiah**, aged about 45 years, R/at. No:25, Gavipuram, HBCS Layout, Mallathalli, Bengaluru south (M) 9448955833 intends to purchase the undeveloped immoveable property bearing Survey No: 86/1 of Honniganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District Ad measuring 3 Acres converted from Agricultural to Residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Ramanagara dated: 29-02-2024 vide No: 622587 from one Sri. Ramesh. R.S, S/o. Late. Shivaramaiah, R/at. No: 101, 2nd floor, 2nd cross, Yellappa Garden, 4th phase, BSK 3rd stage, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-85, who is the absolute owner in possession having absolute right, title, interest and ownership over the said property. If anybody has any sort of objections /claim over the said property shall contact the undersigned advocate or the above purchaser by showing the relevant documents to establish your right, title and possession over the said property within a period of 21 days from the date of this paper publication. If anybody claiming interest fails to do so within the said period our client will proceed to purchase the above property and deem that the above property is free from all sorts of encumbrances.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of undeveloped immoveable property bearing Survey No: 86/1 of Honniganahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District Ad measuring 3 Acres converted from Agricultural to Residential purpose by the Deputy Commissioner, Ramanagara dated: 29-02-2024 vide No: 622587 and bounded on:

East by: Land of Poojari Doddi Malavaiah, Alooraiah and R.G. Prakash, **West by:** Sy No.87/2 of R.S. Ramesh, **North by:** Land of Honnappa Swamy Temple, **South by:** Government Road passing to Keremegala Doddi.

M.R. SHALMALA, ADVOCATE,
S.N ASSOCIATES, No.1064/32, Ramamurthy Arcade, Gokula 1st Stage, 2nd Phase, Triveni Road, Bengaluru-54. Ph-9945382534

QuoteExpress — IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE › NELSON MANDELA

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

Original Application No.148/2024

STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, J .C. Road, Bangalore. ...Applicant
Versus
Sri Uday Kumar Govindan & Another ...Defendants

SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To, Defendant No. 2

1. Sri Kumar S/o. Sri Srikantaiah B. R/at: #13, Virupakshipura Hobali, Yelethotadahalli - 562 138
Also R/at: No. 193, 5th Cross, GPR Layout, Hossur Electronic City, Bangalore.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.74,19,117/-** (Rupees Seventy Four Lakhs Nineteen Thousand One Hundred and Seventeen Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **10.03.2025 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **30.10.2024.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II AT BANGALORE

Original Application No.223/2024

STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, J .C. Road, Bangalore. ...Applicant
Versus
Smt. Savitri Kanwar ...Defendant

SUMMONS /NOTICE TO DEFENDANT UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993, BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,

Smt. Savitri Kanwar W/o. Praveen Kumar Rao, R/at: No. 3, Kumar Mansion, Dhaturi Ramanna Lane, SP Road Cross, Gollapet, Bangalore - 560 002.

Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of **Rs.48,44,808/-** (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Forty Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Eight Only) mentioned therein together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above defendant is therefore, hereby directed to appear before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense within 30 days from the date of publication or on **12.03.2025 at 10.30 am** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this the **30.10.2024.**

Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II Bangalore
Advocate for Applicant Bank
Mrs. Malini Vinay

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

SHORT - TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

KPTCL invites sealed tenders from Manufacturer/ Experience/Authorized service Agency for the below mentioned works.

No:938/CH/TL&SS/EE(E)/AE(T)/2024-25/F-49/3660-63 Dt: 29.11.2024

(1) Name of the work: (1) OCR/EFR relays for 11KV Feeders 1 No. at 110KV Islampur, 1 No at 110KV Daddi, 1 No at 110KV hukkeri, 2 No. at 110KV Kagwad. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor, Numerical 3OC+1EF relay 110V DC. **Qty:** 5 No. **(2)** Master trip relay for 11KV feeder – 1 No. at 110KV Kagwad. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor, 110V DC,4 NO+1NC SR. **Qty:** 1 No. **(3)** Trip Circuit supervision relay for 11KV feeders – 2 No at 110KV Nippani. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor, Type: ATSR31A, 110V DC. **Qty:** 2 No. **(4)** Instantanious EFR relay for 11KV Feeder – 1 No at 110KV Mantur. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor, Type: CAG14AF12A, 110V DC. **Qty:** 1 No.

No:938/CH/TL&SS/EE(E)/AE(T)/2024-25/F-49/3664-67 Dt: 29.11.2024

(2) Name of the work: (1) Supply, retrofitting, commission of Annunciator windows for 11KV bank-3 at 110/11KV Aigali, for 11KV bank-2 at 110/11KV Kagwad and for 11KV bank-2 110/11KV Balligeri substation. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor,Type:EM101/310505811Aux Voltage: 75-275 V AC/DCWindow: 5 x 10. **Qty:** 03 No. **(2)** Supply, retrofitting, commission of Annunciation facia with buzzer for 11KV remote control & annunciation panel 2 at 110/11KV Daddi substation. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor,Type: EM101/310505811. **Qty:** 01 No.

No:938/CH/TL&SS/EE(E)/AE(T)/2024-25/F-49/3668-71 Dt: 29.11.2024

(3) Name of the work: (1) Supply, retrofitting, commission of Annunciator facia with buzzer for 110KV lines (2No) and Power Transformers (2No) C&R panles at 110/11KV Daddi substation. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor, Type: EM101/31012581. **Qty:** 04 No. **(2)** Supply, retrofitting, commission of Annunciator facia with buzzer for 110 KV lines (1No) and Power Transformers (1No), 33KV Bank (1No), 33 KV line (1No) and 11KV bank1 (1No) C&R panles at 110/11 KV Hukkeri substation. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor,Type: EM1-02/12–12W–1 NoType: MP-02/12–12W–1 No. Type: MP-02/12 18W–1 No Type: SLPC-EM201/24USD-24W-1No. Type:EL-MECH-SERIES-35W-1No. **(3)** Supply, retrofitting, commission of Annunciator facia with buzzer for 11KV bank 1 & 3 C&R panels at 110/11KV Sankeshwar substation. **Specification:** Make: Approved vendor P.S 230VAC/110V DC–35 W– 1No Type: EM101/310455811– 45W–1 No.

The under singed may be contacted for tender closing date and tender opening date and other conditions within office hour on working days.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), TL & SS Division, KPTCL, Vidyuth Nagar, Chikkodi-591201, Ph: 08338-275173.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Divn., Athani – 591304, Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum (Karnataka).

No./KNNL/HBC/PB/TND/2024-25/ 2785 Date: 27.11.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2
(Through kpp-portal only)

Percentage tenders are invited as per KW-4 in Two cover system for below mentioned Work on Turn Key Basis from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, HBC Division Athani, invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful civil contractors from KPWD Class I and Above Contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.

The two cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 4, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kpp-portal karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender only.

The approximate estimated cost of work is 1) Rs. 26.76 Crores.

1:The contractor can request for e-tendering documents: From 02.12.2024 @ 10.30 AM to 02.01.2025 upto 4.00 PM, 2:Last date & time for tender queries:16-12-2024 upto 4.00 PM, 3:Pre bid meeting will be held in the office of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru:18-12-2024 upto 11.00 AM, 4:Submission of completed e-tendering document:From 02.12.2024 @ 10.30 AM to 02.01.2025 upto 4.00 PM, 5:Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani: 06-01-2025 @ 11.00 AM, 6:Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL HBC Division Athani: 09.-01-2025 @ 11.00 AM or After approval of Technical Bid,7:Date for Producing original document @ EE KNNL HBC Division Athai:07.01.2025 @ 11.00 AM.

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on telephone: 08289-251034 and H.P company helpline 080-22485867

Sd/-Executive Engineer,
KNNL HBC Division, Athani

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1228/KSMCA/2024-25

What makes loans against gold jewellery hit among borrowers

A slew of factors led by the increasing financial distress of households, regulatory curbs on personal loans & rising prices of the yellow metal are driving the mkt

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

THE disbursal of loans against gold in the first seven months of the financial year has grown by an astounding 50%. Many analysts see this as a sign of deepening financial distress of the households.

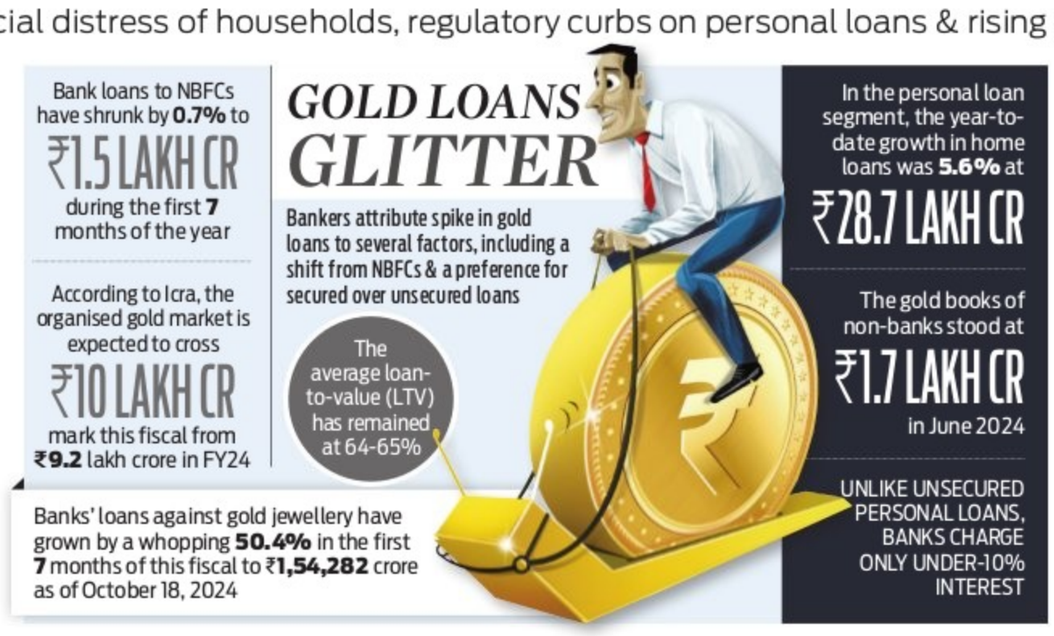
However, there are also other factors as well driving the growth in this segment. The regulatory pushback against unsecured personal loans being one of the primary factors. Every other segment of personal loans grew in mid-single digit during this period at a low 3.3%.

Ease of getting a loan against gold jewellery, the price of which had sniffed at ₹8,000/gram late October is another factor driving this segment. Also, being a fully secured loan product, unlike unsecured personal loans, banks charge only under-10% interest, while gold loan NBFCs charge much higher, 1.2% a month for three months. If not unpledged in the third month, the interest rate spikes to 2%. In the former scenario, a borrower pays 1.4% on an annualised basis and 24% in the case of the second event.

According to the latest Reserve Bank data on sectoral deployment of credit, banks' loans against gold jewellery have grown by a whopping 50.4% in the first seven months of this fiscal to ₹1,54,282 crore as of October 18, 2024, up a full 56% on-year and from ₹1,02,562 crore end-March 2024. In the same period in October 2023, the growth was only 13%.

And this stupendous growth for banks has come mostly at the cost of standalone players like the three Muthoot group entities, Manappuram Finance, IIFL Finance and a host of other non-bank lenders.

While standalone players began to face growth headwinds after the November 2023 RBI circular asking banks to set aside 25 percentage points (125% in total) more money as risk weights for their loans to NBFCs played a big role in their lower growth in the assets side. As a result, as of October 18, the bank credit to NBFCs have shrunk by 0.7% to ₹1.5 lakh crore during the first seven months of the year.


Bank loans to NBFCs have shrunk by 0.7% to ₹1.5 LAKH CR during the first 7 months of the year
According to Icra, the organised gold market is expected to cross ₹10 LAKH CR mark this fiscal from ₹9.2 lakh crore in FY24
GOLD LOANS GLITTER
Bankers attribute spike in gold loans to several factors, including a shift from NBFCs & a preference for secured over unsecured loans
The average loan-to-value (LTV) has remained at 64-65%
Banks' loans against gold jewellery have grown by a whopping 50.4% in the first 7 months of this fiscal to ₹1,54,282 crore as of October 18, 2024
In the personal loan segment, the year-to-date growth in home loans was 5.6% at ₹28.7 LAKH CR
The gold books of non-banks stood at ₹1.7 LAKH CR in June 2024
UNLIKE UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS, BANKS CHARGE ONLY UNDER-10% INTEREST

While banks control 82% of the market, with NBFCs having only 18% of the total gold loan pie, the latter control as much as 62% of the retail gold loan market, with banks controlling the rest, according to a recent Icra Ratings report.

Bankers attribute this massive spike in gold loans to several factors, including a shift from NBFCs and a preference for secured loans over unsecured ones.

They also attribute the rise in their gold books to the increase in gold prices, which provide borrowers an opportunity to repay old loans and secure higher new loans.

According to an Icra analysis, the organised gold market is expected to cross ₹10-lakh crore-mark this fiscal from ₹9.2 lakh crore in FY24 and will grow 50% more to scale the ₹15-lakh crore- mark by FY27.

This growth will continue to be driven by public sector banks, mostly by their agriculture loans that are backed by gold ornaments. As much as 71% of their gold loan book is agri loans, which come at a subsidised rate along with a ₹3 lakh cap on single borrower accounts.

Also, this higher growth comes against the RBI last month directing banks and non-banks into gold loans to review their loan policies and procedures, instructing them to rectify any deficiencies within three months.

In the personal loan segment, the year-to-date growth in home loans was a low 5.6% at ₹28.7 lakh crore as of October 18. The on-year home loan growth was 12.1%, compared to 36.6% in October 2023.

The next highest growth rate was in credit card outstanding, which rose by 9.2% in seven months to ₹2.81 lakh crore. However, growth in other personal loans, including unsecured loans, was sluggish at 3.3%. As against this, overall bank credit grew 4.9% to ₹172.4 lakh crore, with credit to industry rising 3.3% during the period.

According to Icra, the gold books of non-banks stood at ₹1.7 lakh crore in June 2024 driven by rising gold prices leading to ornament tonnage growing muted and are likely to grow this fiscal only at 17-19%. The average loan-to-value (LTV) has generally remained at 64-65%, despite the gold prices gaining over 30% so far this year.

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT INVESTORS CAN LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2025

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

INVESTING is all about understanding the tailwinds and headwinds. Your flight to financial prosperity depends on your ability to understand the impact of these conditions. You may choose not to dive deep and rely on professionals to figure it out. Those who manage your money carefully analyse the financial market situation. Since today's prices are a function of tomorrow's profits, all numbers that could influence future profit growth are crunched. From the analysis thus far, the picture is a bit hazy for your investments in 2025.

Inflation and interest rates

The macroeconomic data shows India's economic growth is slowing, and inflation is stubbornly high. Analysts are revising growth estimates downwards for the financial year 2024-25, and inflation estimates upwards. Food inflation refuses to remain in check. The Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee will likely be under intense pressure from the government in 2025 to bring down borrowing rates. The government and the RBI may have differing views on the issue. The government may want RBI to lower borrowing rates to stimulate growth. However, the RBI committee will likely continue inflation targeting to ensure India's economy is not overheated.

Even at the slowest level in several quarters, India is the fastest-growing large economy and will continue to remain so in 2025. The chances of interest rates rapidly going down in 2025 look dim. That means the cost of your loans is likely to stay the same. You may get concessions on refinancing. Banks can offer attractive terms to move your existing loan to them. The year 2025 may be when you could probably bring down the average cost of borrowing. You may want to discuss that with your financial advisor.

Stock markets in 2025

India is no longer the only attractive market for foreign portfolio investors. While they may not sell as aggressively as they did in 2024, US markets will remain the focus of global investors. If returns in American stocks remain attractive, India may see money move out. At the same time, share prices in China remain cheap despite the rally.

MANDAR PARDIKAR

In 2025, more money could flow into China as it remains the cheapest stock market among all emerging markets. India continues to remain the most expensive market in terms of price-earnings multiple. At the same time, the US and China have a declining inflation trend. That should enable their central banks to bring down the cost of borrowing. When that happens, more money flows to equity assets.

With US companies sitting on a record amount of cash and the incoming US presidential policy encouraging local manufacturing and services, US equities could remain an attractive proposition for global investors. As a result, Indian shares are likely to remain sluggish in the first half of 2025. That is because companies' profit growth is likely to remain lower than in 2023-24. Record money also moved into initial public offerings and qualified institutional placements in 2024.

Mutual funds, which receive a significant net inflow of systematic investment plans, could continue buying into QIPs and IPOs and remain selective about the broader market. For a sustained surge in Indian equities, major companies must report strong profit growth in the next three quarters.

What you can do

Headwinds for the market are factors that create inflation in the economy. Suppose the government consistently brings adequate food items and supplies and reins in the food inflation. In that case, India can have a consumer price inflation rate of around 4% or below. You must watch out for that number in 2025. If it hovers over that persistently, it could dampen equity returns.

If you are new to investing, starting with an index or exchange-traded fund is a good idea. With different tailwinds and headwinds influencing the financial markets, it may be hard to time the market and find the right moment to buy. Those already investing regularly through mutual funds or directly can continue making systematic investments. You must consider one if you have not engaged a financial advisor yet. Having an independent voice could help you navigate the volatile times in 2025.

MONEY-WISE

RETIREMENT PLANNING & PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM

writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

I know two people who are more than 70 years old. How much of their money should be in equities? "Sir, 100 years minus their age – so they should have about 30% of their portfolio in equities".

Then I tell them these two people are Mr. Azim Premji and Mr. Amitabh Bachchan …do you guys want to change the answer please?". Thumb rules do not always work. The amount of debt and equity that a person has in his or her portfolio is not just a function of a person's age, it is also a function of the total corpus, the ability to understand, the managerial ability, etc. So, a person who has retired at age 48 and thinks will live for another 40 years, has to have equity in his portfolio. There are many ways of looking at a retiree's portfolio!

Let us see what a retiree

portfolio can and cannot do:

Must do:

- Outlive the owner of the portfolio and his spouse.
- Give comfort to the owner – with a level of money that allows him to sleep.
- The retiree should be able to understand and manage it – which means a minimum of complexities for both the Husband and the Wife.
- Both the spouses should be able to handle it INDEPENDENT of each other.
- Be liquid for some contingencies – just in case!

Can do:

- Give a growth rate higher than the withdrawal rate
- Be volatile, but within a range.

Cannot be expected to do:

- Seek active management in the working of the company.
- Buy more shares to reduce the cost of purchase (averaging).

One of the standard pieces of advice for retirees is that they must have a conservative portfolio since they are too old to take any chances with equities. For a person who today wants to retire at 50 and has to provide for 30 years, not being in equity is the way to penury. Only equity provides you with protection against inflation – a threat over a long period.

Another change in today's retiree is that he is young, will spend some time travelling. This costs money – and the chances are that the retiree should not have to compromise his living style.

If you are wondering how 'does it matter' as to how long a retirement portfolio has to last, please think again! The portfolio should also be such that it does not scare the retiree into panic reactions. Can you buy fixed income products? Well, this has to provide for taxation and inflation, so the corpus has to be big. The fact is historically equities have beaten other asset classes by a mile. You need equity to help you beat inflation.

Retiree investor

There are many things a retiree can do. He should learn the nuances of equity investing. An early start helps, but even if he starts at 45, it is still not too bad! At 60, you still have to be in equities – about 40% at least. This is to ensure that your portfolio does not exhaust itself when you are alive!

Growth in gross GST collection slows to 8.5% to ₹1.82 L cr in November

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

THE gross GST collection in November grew at 8.5% year-on-year to ₹1.82 lakh crore largely on the back of healthy accrual from domestic transactions. However, it is lower than the October collection of ₹1.87 lakh crore, which was the second highest monthly collection recorded in GST. The domestic GST revenue grew by 9.4% during the month, while import GST revenue growth of 5.4%.

This is the third month in a row that gross GST collections have shown single digit growth, showing that a fatigue has set in as far as GST collections have been concerned. Even the festive months of October (when gross collections showed a growth of 8.9%) and November have failed to give a boost to the collections. However, net GST collections (net off refunds) grew by 11.1% to ₹1.63 lakh crore as refunds during the period declined by 9%.

Total gross collections in the April-November period grew by 9.3% to ₹14.56 lakh crore, while net collections during the period grew by 9.2% to ₹12.91 lakh crore. According to Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP, the divergence in growth of income tax (15%) and GST (9.3%) in the April-November period seem to suggest that even if income levels are growing in India, consumption is not aligned accordingly.

"…the year-to-date GST collections growth is also below the budgeted growth," says Jalan, adding that this may require some food for thought for the GST Council as it meets on 21 December. MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India, highlights the fact that slower growth in some large states like Haryana (2%), UP & MP (5%), as well the negative growth in Rajasthan (-1%) & AP (-10%).This should be an area of concern as these states have significant manufacturing presence, he says.

Carmakers, except Hyundai, report surge in Nov sales

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

MOST carmakers, with the exception of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL), reported year-on-year growth in November wholesales. However, on a sequential basis, most companies saw a significant decline, as festive demand tapered off and buyers, despite attractive discounts, hesitated to make big-ticket purchases.

The country's largest carmaker - Maruti Suzuki's - domestic passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales grew by 5% last month to 1,41,312 units as compared to 1,34,158 units in the year-ago month. Month-on-month basis, it was a big dip given that Maruti, backed by festive demand, had sold nearly ₹1.60 lakh units in October 2024.

Korean brand Hyundai registered total wholesales of 61,252 units (Domestic: 48,246 units and Export: 13,006 units) in November 2024. On an annual basis, sales were down by 2.4% last month as the carmaker had dispatched 49,451 units in November 2023. Hyundai's exports fell sharply by 20.5% last month.

Commenting on HMIL sales, Tarun Garg, Whole-time Director and Chief Operating Officer, HMIL said, "HMIL's push towards fortifying SUV supremacy continued in November with SUVs contributing 68.8% of our total Domestic sales. We also bolstered HMIL's presence in the hinterland of India, by achieving the highest ever monthly rural contribution of 22.1% in November."

Tata Motors Passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales, including electric vehicles, grew by 2% to 47,117 units as against 46,143 units in November 2023. Within this, domestic PV dispatches saw a 2% uptick to 47,063 units compared to 46,068 units in the same month last year.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) continues to post a robust growth trajectory, recording sales of 25,586 units in November 2024, a 44% increase over the same period last year.

Sabari Manohar – Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "The year 2024 has exceeded our expectations and we are gearing up to close it on a strong note, with a continued focus on redefining customer experience to effectively meet evolving market demands."

JSW MG Motor announced wholesale figures of 6019 units in November 2024. Compared to November 2023, this is a year-on-year growth of 20 %. MG Windsor, India's first intelligent CUV, maintains its strong demand, leading the company's EV sales for the second consecutive month with 3144 units sold.

Banks witness increase in deposits for the third consecutive fortnight

BENN KOCHUVEEDAN @ Mumbai

BANKS' efforts to mop up deposits have finally begun to pay off with liabilities growing faster than assets for the third consecutive fortnight.

This trend started in the last fortnight of October after a gap of 30 months, when the fortnight ending October 18 had shown banks collecting more deposits than selling loans. The credit-deposit growth mismatch began in the fortnight to March 25, 2022.

This change in the trend is due to two key factors. First, with markets becoming volatile in October and November, people have chosen not to risk their hard earned money in equities, thus more money remains in their bank accounts. Secondly, bank lending has been losing steam with all the regulatory curbs on unsecured lending and also bank lending to non-banks. According to the latest RBI data, for the fortnight to November 15, deposit growth marginally outpaced credit uptick at 11.21%. Credit growth had been exceeding deposit growth since the fortnight ending March 25, 2022, leading to a widening gap that reached as much as 700 basis points at its peak in the middle of 2023. On the other hand, credit growth in the reporting fortnight slowed to 11.15 %, according to the latest data from the RBI.

Banks have been trying every trick in the book to strengthen their liability franchise, including offering special schemes and higher returns. For the first time in 30 months, deposit growth has outpaced credit growth after it registered a on-year growth of 11.8%in the fortnight to October 18, compared to a rise of 11.7%in loan growth. But the momentum did not sustain in the next fortnight. However, its resumed in the fortnight to November 15.

Verstappen takes ninth win of season in Qatar

World champion Max Verstappen powered to his ninth win of the Formula One season with victory at the Qatar Grand Prix on Sunday. The Red Bull driver, who wrapped up a fourth straight world title last weekend in Las Vegas, took the lead from pole-sitter George Russell and held off second-placed Charles Leclerc and Oscar Piastri of McLaren.

Lakshya Sen (L) and PV Sindhu celebrate after their wins on Sunday | PTI

Home balm for Sindhu & Lakshya

ANMOL GURUNG @Chennai

GIVEN the tall standards they have set over the years, shuttlers PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen endured an arduous 2024. Missing out on a medal at the Olympics was a low point, both in contrasting styles. That's why their title-winning efforts in the just-concluded Syed Modi International tournament, a Super 300 BWF Tour event, were a welcome balm for both.

As the elite players gave the event a miss, they were handed the No 1 seedings. With hungry youngsters, aspiring to emulate the senior players' standards in the draw, and their patchy form through the course of the year, they still had to maintain their focus. And they did ace the test with relative ease. In their respective finals, Sindhu beat Wu Luo Yu of China while Lakshya bossed his contest against Jia Heng Jason Teh of Singapore. Apart from Sindhu's second match, where she conceded a game to junior compatriot Ira Sharma, it was a fairly straightforward run for both the shuttlers.

RESULTS (ALL FINAL)

Women's singles: PV Sindhu bt Wu Luo Yu (CHN) 21-14, 21-16.

Men's singles: Lakshya Sen bt Jia Heng Jason Teh (SGP) 21-6, 21-7

Women's doubles: Treesa Jolly/Gayatri Gopichand bt Bao Li Jing/ Li Qian (CHN) 21-18, 21-11.

Best of rest

Moreover, their dominance highlighted the levels that they are operating at as compared to other Indian single hopefuls still looking to establish their names at the highest level. There were as many as 17 Indians in the women's singles main draw. Sindhu beat as many as three Indians. She got the better of Anmol Kharb in the opener before being stretched by Ira Sharma in Round 2. Similarly, there were as many Indians in the men's singles main draw. Priyanshu Rajawat, Kiran George were some of the notable Indians alongside Lakshya.

Lakshya was a step ahead of every opponent that he met and won all his games without having to expend all his gears. It's not a surprise that Lakshya's father, DK Sen, was a pleased man. "For four, five months, he had lost some close matches. Given that this is the final tournament of the year, it's really good. Lakshya played with a lot of assuredness and won it in a convincing manner. This should definitely add to his motivation," he told this daily.

As is evident from the outcome of the event, young singles players from the country, despite getting a fair amount of exposure in recent times, are still a raw bunch. Lakshya, who had gone closest to challenging for an Olympic medal at the Paris Olympics, is the present and someone who clearly looks like the one who'll be fighting in marquee events in the days to come. As for Sindhu, this outcome is equally important. She has gradually slipped down the rankings and has been no match for some of the big-hitters in the sport at the moment. Given her determination that has made her synonymous to sport in the country, the 29-year-old will be hoping to course correct and challenge for bigger medals next year.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Another draw after a Ding-dong battle

Gukesh and Liren play out a draw & remain level on points after game six of World Chess Championship

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
TNIE @ WORLD CHESS C'SHIP
SINGAPORE

THE two most dominant themes of the current chess World Championship were present on a nerve-shredding Sunday. Ding Liren has had no problems getting into advantageous positions. He has enjoyed that throughout 2024 and in this title match with D Gukesh. His problem has been converting those gains into definitive wins. D Gukesh, like many of the young, daring elite players from India, likes to play for a win. Sometimes, even in a totally drawn position, he goes for glory.

In a bum-clenching game six when fingernails were chewed and other non-edibles were consumed, Gukesh and Liren exhibited their aforementioned traits. In the end, a draw, ironically by three-fold repetition after four hours and over 45 moves, was perhaps a fair result but it's a result both camps will rue as they both had chances to press at various points.

After two hours, the match was headed to a draw. The Chinese world champion, in a slightly better position, offered it by threefold repetition. All Gukesh, playing with Black, had to do was move the Queen back to where it came from — 26...e7. Instead, even when the engine and the experts believed that he was in a slightly worse position, he moved the principal piece out on one of the flanks (h4). It brought out audible gasps in the viewing hall.

Liren, who was all prepared to shake hands, was forced to sit down and calculate the lines again. It was the moment when the blue touchpaper was truly lit. On air for *chess24*, Peter Leko, who was involved in a title match of his own, was left speechless. His co-commentator, Robert Hess, was 'floored'. After the game, the 18-year-old, vying to be the youngest world champion in history, said, "I just wanted to play a few more moves... I like playing chess." Liren went for it from the off. It was a line he knew very well so he kept blitzing out moves even as Gukesh was forced into a long think on occasions. Liren had spent seven minutes for his first 20 moves. In comparison, Gukesh had already bled 50 minutes. The engine had slowly but surely given a small advantage to white and Gukesh knew he was worse off. Liren knew he had played a near-perfect opening.

Gukesh, head lowered over the chess board, wasn't given time to even take a restroom break; such was the lightning pace of Liren's moves. Once he found some counterplay to transfer the initiative back to his elder opponent, he allowed himself some time away from the board. He needed that time because he had to be perfect with his calculations to have a chance of turning defence into attack later on, if he so wished (*chess.com* had pegged his accuracy level at 100% in the opening).

With Liren finally out of preparation, he burned more than 40 minutes on the 21st move (capturing the pawn with the queen). A few moves later, Gukesh refused the draw offer and the game went into overdrive. White's pawn structure was more mobile so Liren, at least in theory, had more chances even though Gukesh had a couple of passers. The Indian moved the queen from one coast to another to try and find some counterplay from the other flank but Liren shut it out effectively. Soon enough, the queens were off the board.

Each player had double rooks and five pawns apart from the king. Would it be reduced to a pawn push? In a frenetic end game both players tried to fight but the opponent didn't make a mistake. After the second rest day of the final, the 18-year-old will play with White pieces on Tuesday.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Ding Liren (L) and D Gukesh played out a draw in game six on Sunday | FIDE

How the game played out

1	d4 Nf6	24	Qd5 Qe7
2	Bf4 d5	25	Qd6 Qg5
3	e3 e6	26	Qd5 Qh4
4	Nf3 c5	27	Red1 g6
5	c3 Bd6	28	Qe5 Rbe8
6	Bb5+ Nc6	29	Qg3 Qh5
7	Bxc6+ bxc6	30	Qf4 Qa5
8	Bxd6 Qxd6	31	a3 Qb5
9	Qa4 O-O	32	Rd4 Qe2
10	Qa3 Ne4	33	R1d2 Qf3
11	Nfd2 e5	34	Kc2 Qxf4
12	Nxe4 dxe4	35	exf4 f5
13	Qxc5 Qg6	36	h4 e3
14	Nd2 Qxg2	37	Re2 Re7
15	O-O-O Qxf2	38	Kd3 Rfe8
16	dxe5 Rb8	39	h5 gxh5
17	Nc4 Be6	40	Rd5 h4
18	Rd2 Qf3	41	Rxf5 Rd7+
19	Re1 Bxc4	42	Kc2 Kg7
20	Qxc4 Qf5	43	Kg2+ Kh8
21	Qxc6 Qxe5	44	Re2 Kg7
22	Qd5 Qe7	45	Kg2+ Kh8
23	Qd6 Qg5	46	Re2 Kg7

RESULT: 0.5-0.5

Game length: 46 moves

Opening: London System

Match score: 3-3

Monday is a rest day. Gukesh will have white pieces on Tuesday

Anand, Singapore and an evening of frenzy at World Championships

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @Singapore

THE hottest ticket in town on Saturday night was Anirudh Ravichander's concert as part of his 2024 Hukum Tour. At a sold-out arena, the Indian composer played some of his biggest hits.

At the venue of the World chess Championship, tucked away in a corner of Resorts World Sentosa, on Sunday, another Indian performed in front of a sold-out arena. This, though, was more serene. Inside the fan zone area, Viswanathan Anand enthralled the lucky few with a 10-game simultaneous exhibition, an event conducted as part of the Championship.

The fan zone has seen multiple exhibitions so far — Alexandra Kosteniuk (former women's champion) and Boris Gelfand (World Championship runner-up) have held the audience captive for more than an hour. But Sunday was something else for it still showed the heft Anand had among chess fans. People from all walks of life were patiently waiting to greet him following the simulation. A few were even seen clutching his book — 'Mind Master: Winning Lessons From A Champion' — as well as a pen, perhaps hoping for an autograph.

Viswanathan Anand at a 10-game simultaneous exhibition in Singapore | EXPRESS

The fan zone being full was no surprise. Wherever Anand has gone over the last week or so, chess fans have followed him, with lots of selfie and autograph requests. One only had to see the attention he received from Singapore's next generation when he was invited to the country's age-group Championships a few days ago. Kevin Goh Wei Ming, CEO of the Singapore Chess Federation, posted on X (formerly Twitter): "I was horribly ill-prepared when we invited @vishy64theking to the closing ceremony of the National Age Group Championships," the Singapore GM wrote. "I knew he is a rockstar but I did not expect the Singaporeans to suddenly lose their senses as quickly as they did."

Utsav Rakshit, one of the 10 ticket-holders who had the chance to face Anand in the exhibition, said he was delighted to have got the opportunity. "I believe in Anand," he told this daily. 'I got this chance by getting a ticket and some lucky stars," Rakshit, who plays cricket for Singapore, said. "Really overwhelming, I think the most pressure I have ever felt while playing chess," the 28-year-old, who has a rating of over 1500 on chess.com, said when asked about the experience of playing Anand.

While some of the GMs involved in the simuls so far preferred to exhibit their superiority early on, Anand was more subtle. He took his time. By the time the 54-year-old was done, all the 10 players had survived at least 30 moves. For Anand, this was just another day in the office. For the lucky few who got to face him, it was a lifetime worth of memories

Will Rohit bat in middle-order once again in the longest format?

GOMESH S @Chennai

AS India won the toss and opted to bowl in what was a mutually-agreed 50-over a side pink ball encounter against Prime Minister XI in Canberra on Sunday, there was one significant change in the line-up. Rohit Sharma, the Indian captain and regular opener who missed the first Test in Perth, was slotted at No 5 in the team sheet.

Since the success in Perth and the stability KL Rahul has shown alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal, whether Sharma should walk in as an opener or not has been a raging debate. Conventionally, Sharma slots right back in his position while Rahul would have been moved back to the middle-order. After all, Sharma has two centuries to show this year, both against England, and Rahul has been a middle-order batter for a while. But with the circumstances changing, India turned to Rahul's experience at the top in the absence of Sharma for the first Test. And Rahul came to the party with two patient knocks of 26 and 77 while looking the most comfortable batter in the middle. With that and Sharma's recent dip in form in the home season, there are doubts as to whether India should change the successful combination to accommodate the captain.

Sharma, who became a Test opener in 2019, has been one of the best batters in the format for over four years. Since he became an opener and till the end of 2023, Sharma led the batting charts for India in the longest format. However, from the Bangladesh series in September, Sharma averages 13.30 in ten innings. In the last couple of years, Sharma had significantly altered his batting to suit the needs of the white-ball game. His proactive approach proved dividends as India cruised to the final of the ODI World Cup in 2023 before going on to win the T20 World Cup this year. That being said, whether it had an impact on the way he bats in red-ball cricket is a question only Sharma can answer.

Rohit Sharma batted at No 4 vs PM XI | AFP

On Sunday, as Rahul and Jaiswal walked out to chase the target of 241, one thing seemed clear. India have not ruled out the option of making Sharma bat in the middle. The Indian captain came to bat at No 4 — Virat Kohli did not bat — adding to the debate. He batted eleven balls, defended, awkwardly swiveled, ducked for a bouncer, left a half-volley outside off-stump before chasing the next one. The ball from Charlie Anderson took the outside edge and Oliver Davies did the rest at first slip. Sharma — 3 (11) read the scoreboard. Which brings one back to the argument of Sharma batting in the middle-order. While it is true that he could be dangerous at No 5, his past record indicates otherwise.

BRIEF SCORES: Australia PM XI 240 in 43.2 ovs (Konstas 107, Jacobs 61, Clayton 40; Rana 4/44, Akash Deep 2/58) **lost to** India 257/5 in 46 ovs (Gill retd 50 n.o, Rahul retd 27 n.o, Jaiswal 45, Reddy 42, Jadeja 27, Washington 42 n.o).

From the time he debuted against West Indies in 2013 till October 2019, Sharma was shuffled through the batting line-up in every position possible. There were days where he batted like a dream and then there were other occasions when he got out chasing a nothing delivery wide outside the off-stump. After he became an opener, Sharma transformed his game to suit the role and it gave him all the success there is.

Unlike the past, the ball is in Sharma's court now. As a captain, it is his decision. Yes, he is a better cricketer and captain now and has all the experience in the world, but that doesn't necessarily assure him success should he decide to bat in the middle-order at Adelaide. However, if he does, it would be a tactical decision for the team, but as a batter, he would be making a sacrifice that is not common in Indian cricket.

At 37, he would be giving up his strengths this late into his career and maybe will have to adjust his technique accordingly all over again. Will Sharma take the plunge? Will it work if he does? Only time will tell.

Shah takes charge as youngest ICC Chair

GOMESH S @Chennai

JAY Shah, the outgoing secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), officially assumed the role of International Cricket Council (ICC) Chair on December 1, succeeding Greg Barclay, who vacated the position on Saturday.

In his inaugural statement, Shah expressed gratitude to the ICC Directors and Member Boards, while laying out his vision for the tenure. "This is an exciting time for the sport as we prepare for the LA28 Olympic Games and work to make cricket more inclusive and engaging for fans worldwide. We are at a critical juncture with the coexistence of multiple formats and the need to accelerate the growth of the women's game," Shah said in a statement. "Cricket holds immense potential globally, and I look forward to working closely with the ICC team and Member countries to seize these opportunities and take the sport to new heights," he added.

Shah's first and perhaps the biggest challenge as ICC Chair will be finding an amicable solution for the ongoing Champions Trophy issue between BCCI and Pakistan Cricket Board. With India not travelling to Pakistan and reportedly preferring a hybrid model, the PCB had asked for a long-term solution for the issue, where they too will play India at a neutral venue at ICC events till 2031. As there is not much time left, Shah will have to negotiate a long-term solution which does not put in a position where he comes off as being favourable to India.

Who will be BCCI secretary?

While Shah, as per the ICC constitution, would have vacated his post as the BCCI secretary, there is no clear indication on who will succeed. There have been multiple names doing the rounds including IPL Governing Council chair Arun Dhumal, joint secretary Devajit Saikia and the current treasurer Ashish Shelar. There are also murmurs of Gujarat Cricket Association secretary Anil Patel and Gujarat Football Association president Parimal Nathwani having a chance of getting the post. However, nothing is certain as of now.

According to the BCCI constitution, the president shall "...in the event of the vacancy or indisposition of an office bearer, delegate the functions to another office bearer until the vacancy is duly filled up, or the indisposition ceases." Which means, president Roger Binny has power to delegate some of the responsibilities to other office bearers, including Saikia. The constitution also states that if there is a vacancy in the Apex Council, which includes the five elected office bearers, it shall be filled up "... by elections at a Special General Body Meeting of the BCCI convened by the secretary for that purpose within 45 days." In this case, BCCI president Binny will have the authority to convene an SGM, where the next secretary is elected, before January 14, 2025.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

WA: Hassan & Tebogo clinch top awards

MONACO: Olympic champions Sifan Hassan and Letsile Tebogo have been announced as World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards 2024 in Monaco. Following a vote by fans, six athletes were crowned in three categories.

Shami sets up Bengal's win in SMAT

RAJKOT: Mohammed Shami set up Bengal's comfortable win against Meghalaya with a measly spell in their Group A contest in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy here on Sunday. Shami bowled four overs for just 16 runs to help Bengal win.

Liverpool beat City to extend lead

AGENCIES @London

LIVERPOOL opened up a nine-point lead at the top of the Premier League as Manchester City's crisis deepened in a 2-0 defeat at Anfield on Sunday.

Cody Gakpo's 12th minute goal was scant reward for the Reds' first half domination and they sealed an 18th win in 20 games under Arne Slot thanks to Mohamed Salah's penalty.

City are now 11 points off the runaway leaders down in fifth and winless in seven games, including six defeats.

Earlier, Man United boss Ruben Amorim earned his first Premier League win with a 4-0 rout of Everton while Chelsea climbed to third place with a 3-0 win against spluttering Aston Villa. Marcus Rashford had scored the first goal of Amorim's reign after just two minutes at Ipswich and he was on target again in the 34th minute against Everton.

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah rejoices after scoring against Man City | AFP

United struck again seven minutes later. Jarrad Branthwaite lost possession to Amad Diallo and Bruno Fernandes teed up Joshua Zirkzee to convert with ease. Rashford underlined United's superiority just 20 seconds after the interval as he applied a cool finish to Diallo's incisive pass for his seventh goal this season. Zirkee struck again in the 64th minute with a composed strike.

Results: Man United **4-0** Everton; Chelsea **3-0** Aston Villa; Tottenham **1-1** Fulham; Liverpool **2-0** Man City.

Odisha clinch big win versus BFC

AGENCIES @Bhubaneswar

ODISHA FC delivered a magnificent performance to clinch an entertaining 4-2 victory against Bengaluru FC at the Kalinga Stadium in the Indian Super League here. Odisha brought their A-game to the forefront, especially in the offensive department, as they left the Blues with little respite and secured their third consecutive win in this stadium against Bengaluru FC in the ISL. Jerry Mawihmingthanga (10'), Mourtada Fall (27'), Diego Mauricio (45+3', 60') scored for the winners.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

SAT	ICAI CMA	NBEMS DIPLOMA FINAL THEORY
Date: December 7, 2024	Date: December 10 to 17, 2024	Date: December 13, 14 and 15, 2025

We have been raised to revere what is often referred to as the sanctum-sanctorum of our nation – the Supreme Court. But beyond the practicalities of pursuing a legal career, is the journey to becoming a lawyer at the country's highest courts an easy one? Or does it truly test your skills and resolve? **Lovely Majumdar** endeavours to find out

WORKING AT THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

While pursuing a legal career, it's important to remember that beyond the degrees earned, certain essential qualities are crucial for success. Here are a few valuable tips Supreme Court advocates have for law aspirants

BUILDING reputation and credibility in the legal field is a 'non-negotiable' when it comes to handling cases at the Supreme Court.

Independent advocate Disha Wadekar, who completed her Master of Laws (LLM) from Columbia Law School, USA, opines that one must recognise the opportunities at one's disposal, and learn about the kind of practice one may enjoy, to further excel at it. "Initially I had practised in the district courts, later I moved on to a senior advocate's office in the Supreme Court. Additionally, my grounding in the trial courts helped me understand the procedures of the subordinate courts."

Establishing oneself as a Supreme Court lawyer undoubtedly comes with its challenges. When we sought invaluable advice for aspiring lawyers, advocate Tanvi Dubey emphasised the importance of seizing every opportunity. "Even if you're assisting a senior and not speaking before the judge, it doesn't mean you should lose hope. If your work is exceptional, the judge will take notice of your contribution to the case."

Both Wadekar and Megha Saxena, who is a legal associate to Vikramjit Banerjee, Additional Solicitor General of India (ASG), assert the importance of never missing out on the chance to observe trials in higher courts. "It's crucial to observe these trials, from framing charges to summons, documentation, witness examination, sentencing decisions, and recording defence evidence — these are experiences you can gain only in trial courts," said Wadekar.

Tanvi Dubey

FOUNDER, DUBEY LAW CHAMBERS

1. **Multitasking:** To work efficiently, strong multitasking skills are essential, especially in the early stages when one often has to manage tasks without additional support.
2. **Time management:** For lawyers, their routine is always chock-a-block with conferences, presentations, meetings, drafting, researching, preparing arguments and so on hence, learning how to manage time is essential.
3. **Determination with patience:** A beginner might lose their patience often. For example, when their practice isn't flourishing. It is a time-consuming process, don't forget.

Disha Wadekar

VISITING FACULTY, NLU DELHI

1. **Acquaint yourself:** It is very crucial to understand the rules governing court operations, it helps one become a better lawyer.
2. **When it comes to doing tasks:** Practical experience, such as handling an appeal at the Supreme Court, filing a petition, working with an Advocate on Record, and other related tasks, are essential too.
3. **Understanding all sides:** Simply knowing or studying the law is never enough. One has to know and understand the different aspects that come with it.

Megha Saxena

LEGAL ASSOCIATE, ADDITIONAL SOLICITOR GENERAL (ASG)

1. **Clarity of thought:** To know the law is a thing, but one must be able to convey it in a manner appealing to the judge.
2. **Be straightforward:** The saying, "If you cannot convince the judge, confuse him", might practically never work. Hence, arguments need to be crisp.
3. **Loyalty & dedication:** The process is an extensive learning curve, it is important to stay humble in your profession.

Don't fall for what they show in the movies, develop a strategy

"Success doesn't happen overnight, so it's important to plan. I chose to intern at a trial court for a semester, then secured an internship offer before the semester ended. I also planned to intern with a Supreme Court advocate, while simultaneously working with a judge to gain a clearer understanding of what I wanted to do, and it was incredibly helpful," said Dubey, who has had the chance to work with the legendary lawyer late Ram Jethmalani.

Growing up, we have seen lawyers present arguments in court, skillfully twisting and turning them. While this might be entertaining to watch, much research goes into building a case. "I believe in spending time qualitatively. Researching and writing may come later, but it is important to not lose a cent of information. Your weapon is the information you have," stated Saxena.

Cases which enable true change

"The fruit of labour is sweetest," and this saying certainly applies to these lawyers who practice before the Supreme Court.

While the journey to becoming a Supreme Court lawyer may be challenging, the victories and rewards that come after toiling tirelessly day and night bring a deep sense of self-satisfaction and pride.

These women lawyers go above and beyond to make a lasting impact in their respective fields. Disha Wadekar, who advocates for marginalised communities and works on constitutional law and anti-discrimination issues, discussed her case, Sukanya Shantha vs Union of India (2024) with us. This petition, filed by journalist Sukanya Shantha, focused on identifying caste-based practices in prisons across India.

legal turn

"A 200-page judgment was delivered, which ended the practice of caste discrimination and caste-based segregation within prisons," she shared.

In the prison

Megha Saxena assisted the honourable judge of the Delhi High Court, who she was working with as a law researcher, in the case Annwesha Deb versus the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (2024), where the petitioner sought maternity leave while being a contractual employee, which she was denied. The nature of employment does not matter, but as per the Maternity Benefit Act of 2017, one is eligible to seek those benefits. The court had favoured the petitioner.

"I think, for me as a woman, it was great to see how courts took up the issue positively," she said.

The RG Kar incident

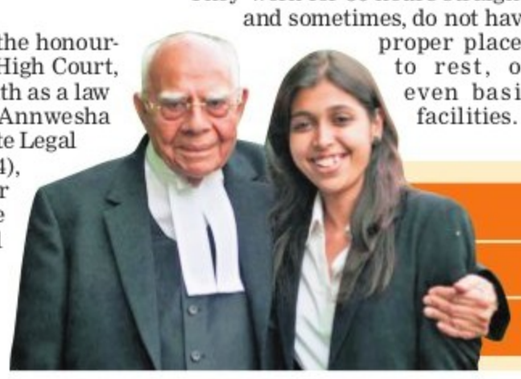
Tanvi Dubey recalled the recent rape and murder of a 31-year-old junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Representing the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA), and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences-Resident Doctors' Association (AIIMS-RDA), the doctors, after the gruesome crime, sought proper facilities that would provide safety to women doctors.

"They work for 36 hours straight, and sometimes, do not have proper places to rest, or even basic facilities. I argued for them, and it was a major victory when the now former Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud directed the Union of India, the Director General of Police in West Bengal, and other authorities to take interim measures," said Dubey.

"We all have a cause to fight for, regardless of the courts we work in, and it's always rewarding to help the community," said Wadekar, who feels driven to work for the marginalised.

These lawyers are driven by a common passion — justice, and in this profession, one truly needs to be devoted to the cause of justice.

Junior doctors protest against the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee (PGT) doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata | PTI (FILE PHOTO)



Rising up the ranks

Wondering how does one go about bagging a chance to work on big legal cases, which are crucial for building a successful career as a lawyer? The answer lies in networking. "It should be taken seriously," said Tanvi Dubey. "I've stayed in touch with my peers, colleagues, and mentors since my internship days. While it's a gradual process, it can definitely help you learn about available opportunities," she explained

STRANGER THAN FICTION

A few of India's bizarre courtroom tales

The great Sandal v Chappal debate
(Delhi, 2017)

When fashion met finance, the Delhi High Court stepped in to clarify a pressing footwear dilemma: women's backless footwear without straps are officially "sandals" and not "chappals." Why the legal intervention? Sandals enjoyed a 10% customs duty drawback, compared to a mere 5% for chappals. The court ruled in favour of style-savvy sandal lovers, saving them money and ending the debate over strappy footwear terminology.

The dead man who refused to die
(Punjab, 2012)

Sital Singh Bagi, a retired Indian Air Force officer, vanished for over a decade in 1987, fleeing terrorists. By the time he returned, his family had declared him legally dead, and his wife was receiving his pension. To reclaim his identity and pension, Bagi went to court, presenting villagers and old colleagues as witnesses. After a 12-year legal battle, the court ruled in his favour, declaring him alive and ordering the IAF to reinstate his pension.

The parrot with a potty mouth
(Maharashtra, 2015)

An elderly woman accused her stepson of training his parrot, Hariyal, to hurl abuses whenever she walked by his house. The bizarre case reached the police, who summoned Hariyal, the woman, and the stepson to a station in Chandrapur district. The parrot refused to perform under police scrutiny. Though Hariyal was handed over to forest officials, no formal charges were filed against the bird — or its owner.

Fair and handsome justice
(Delhi, 2015)

Paras Jain, a law student from Amity University, successfully sued Emami over its fairness cream Fair and Handsome, after his brother saw no improvement in his skin tone despite long-term use. The consumer court in Delhi slapped a ₹15 lakh fine, ruling that the company's fairness claims were misleading and psychologically harmful. Emami was banned from airing advertisements promoting "guaranteed fairness," a win for consumer rights.

Objection, milord! I can't understand you!
(Himachal Pradesh, 2017)

In a landlord-tenant dispute, the Himachal Pradesh High Court delivered a judgment so convoluted that even the lawyers involved were baffled. Aishwarya Bhati, representing the tenant, quipped that she might need to hire an English professor to understand it. The ruling, filled with incomprehensible phrases like 'sinew suffering partial dissipation' prompted the Supreme Court to send it back for re-drafting.

Lawyers at the Supreme Court

R Venkataramani

Attorney General of India

- The Attorney General of India is the chief legal advisor to the government.
- They represent the Union of India in the Supreme Court and other courts.

Tushar Mehta

Solicitor General of India

- The Solicitor General of India is the second-highest law officer in the country after the Attorney General.
- The Solicitor General represents the Government of India in the Supreme Court and other courts.

Additional Solicitor General of India

- The Additional Solicitor General assists the Attorney General of India in legal matters.
- They can be assigned to represent particular ministries or government departments in legal proceedings.

Advocates

- Advocates are lawyers who are registered with the Bar Council of India.
- They are qualified to represent clients in the Supreme Court of India.

Senior Advocates

- The Supreme Court, if deems that the advocate has the required ability, may appoint the lawyer as a senior advocate.
- To become a Senior Advocate, an advocate must apply and be selected by a panel of judges based on their competence and experience.

Advocates on Record (AORs)

- It is important to note that not all practising lawyers with the Supreme Court can file any document, only AORs have the entitlement to file these.
- AORs can only appear in cases in which they have filed petitions, and they often work closely with senior advocates.

Law clerks

- Law Clerks are young law professionals.
- They assist Supreme Court judges with legal research, drafting judgments, and preparing case summaries.

Aiming high

BEING a lawyer at the apex court amidst a milieu of the best legal minds of the country is indeed a massive challenge, but should the immensity of the task deter you from aspiring to be one of the best? Here are the steps you need to take in your quest to practice in the highest court of India

Step 1: Get a law degree

After passing your Class XII or any other equivalent exam, qualify Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) or any other equivalent exam to get into a five-year integrated law course for Bachelor of Arts and Legislative Law (BA LLB), Bachelor of Commerce and Legislative Law (B Com LLB), and Bachelor of Science and Legislative Law (BSc LLB), or you can enroll into a three-year LLB course if you have completed your graduation. The law degree must be obtained from an accredited university or law school in India, affiliated with the Bar Council of India (BCI).

Step 2: Internships while studying

Candidates are encouraged to intern with advocates or law firms during their time in law college. This will help them gain industry insights and practical experience, preparing them early on for courtroom practice once they complete their course.

Step 3: Registration with Bar Council(s)

- It is mandatory for lawyers to get themselves registered with their respective bar councils, and with the state where you aspire to practice.
- To practice at the Supreme Court of India, candidates ought to enroll with the Bar Council of Delhi.

Step 4: Pass the All India Bar Exam (AIBE)

To practice successfully as a lawyer in the Indian courts, one needs to clear the AIBE, which is conducted twice every year by the Bar Council of India. Once they pass the examination, they are eligible to practice at any of the courts in the country.

Step 5: Gain more and more legal experience

After obtaining their license, candidates are eligible to practice in courts. They can work as junior assistants to any Supreme Court advocate, or practice their litigation skills at any of the lower courts, thereby, gaining an understanding of the trade.

Step 6: Also consider practising in lower courts

Budding lawyers tend to score many more opportunities in lower courts rather than the Supreme Court, which is usually the domain of senior advocates and advocate on record. To gain foundational knowledge of practises and procedures of the courts, one should begin with these subordinate courts first.

Step 7: Build expertise in specific areas

It is important to specialise in specific areas of law such as criminal law, constitutional law, corporate law, or family law. Strong knowledge in your particular field of law is highly valued when representing clients.

Step 8: Practice at High Court(s) of India

To start practising at the Supreme Court, it is important for you to accrue insights into the workings of the top courts, after initial years of practice. To gain that experience, you have to practice for more than five years in any of the district courts or high courts. After this, the advocate must train themselves under any Supreme Court advocate.

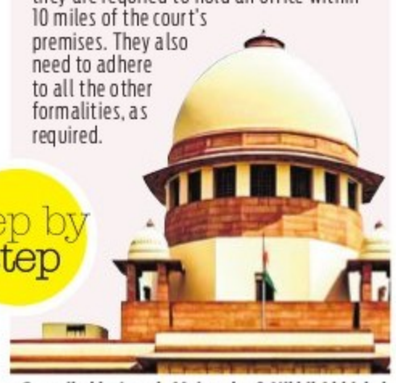
Step 9: Pass the Advocate on Record (AOR) Exam

AORs are a special category of lawyers in the Supreme Court. Lawyers have to pass the exam to practice law in the Supreme Court, and to be eligible to file petitions, affidavits and vakalatnama. One can also practice independently by representing their respective clients at the court or be appointed by the court as a prosecutor to represent the state in special cases.

Step 10: Hold an office

Once the candidate clears the AOR exam, they are required to hold an office within 10 miles of the court's premises. They also need to adhere to all the other formalities, as required.

step by step



— Compiled by Lovely Majumdar & Nikhil Abhishek

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02.12.2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

UAE formed

In 1971, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was declared as an independent, sovereign, and federal state

END OF TREATIES

The UK announced in 1968 and reaffirmed in 1971 that it would end its treaty relationships with the seven Trucial Coast states, which had been under British protection since 1892

THE FORMATION

Following the termination, six of the seven sheikhdoms formed the UAE. The seventh sheikhdom, Ras al Khaymah, joined the UAE in 1972

SEVEN EMIRATES

The UAE comprises seven emirates: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Quwain and Fujairah

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

Neha Sonthalia Periwal, Director, Event Xpress

CMD, *TNIE*, Manoj Kumar Sonthalia, with wife Kalpana Sonthalia and daughter Neha Sonthalia Periwal

Lakshmi Menon, Director and CEO, *TNIE*, giving the vote of thanks

Chief Guest and former CEO of Infosys, SD Shibulal

Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director, *TNIE*

WOMEN WHO WOW!

B'luru's who's who came together for *TNIE's* Devi Awards, which recognised 12 extraordinary women who have scripted success and are shifting the narrative about what women can achieve

Jonas Brunschwig, Consul General of Switzerland (right) with partner Margaux at the 29th edition of the Devi Awards

PICS: VINOD KUMAR T, SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA, NAGARAJA GADEKAL, ALLEN EGENUSE J

Jija Harisingh, retired IPS officer

Manjul Gupta, founder, Bodycraft Spa, Salon and Clinic

> *These achievements inspire us all and highlight the incredible impact of women in every field. I commend TNIE for creating this platform to amplify their voices*
>
> Orli Weitzman, Consul General of Israel in Bengaluru

VIDYA IYENGAR

THE Devi Awards is a humble attempt to honour women who not only break glass ceilings, but also sometimes fix the roof while they are at it. There are women who have turned every 'No, you can't' into 'Yes, I did'. Karnataka, of course, has a proud tradition of producing powerful women who have left their mark on history. Fast forward to today, and Karnataka continues to be a beacon of women's empowerment, with leaders, entrepreneurs and innovators making their mark, not just in the state but across the world," said Neha Sonthalia Periwal, Director, Event Xpress. Her first event as Director of Event Xpress, she addressed a packed hall at the 29th edition of the Devi Awards on Saturday.

Organised by *The New Indian Express (TNIE)*, the Devi Awards saw a dazzling evening unfold at ITC Gardenia on Residency Road, with a star-studded gala attended by the likes of Jonas Brunschwig, CEO, Swissnex in India, Consul General of Switzerland; Orli Weitzman, Consul General of Israel in Bengaluru; Jija Harisingh, the first woman IPS officer from South India; Tejasvi Surya, MP; Manjul Gupta, founder of Bodycraft Spa, Salon and Clinic; Anuja Pandey, influencer and wife of IAS officer Pankaj Kumar Pandey; K Radharaman and Supriya Radharaman, of House of Angadi, among a host of prominent guests who received a red carpet reception.

Twelve exceptional women from diverse fields were awarded for their groundbreaking work; the awards were presented by Manoj Kumar Sonthalia, CMD, *TNIE* Group; Prabhu Chawla, Editorial Director, *TNIE*; and Chief Guest SD Shibulal, former CEO, Infosys.

The fact that three men handed out the awards to 12 Devis symbolised the acknowledgement by the male gender of the achievements and capabilities of the female gender. While the evening undoubtedly belonged to the women, the presence of men underscored an important message: gender equality isn't just a woman's issue – it's a shared responsibility. As Shibulal pointed out, the glass ceiling will permanently shatter when we begin to shift mindsets. Agreed Kaushik Raju, founder of Farmlore and COO of Atria Group, "If you look at the industry, it's mostly male figures. It was lovely to see inspirational women doing important things."

'Women doing significant yet lesser-known work'

Behind the glitz and glamour of the night were months of careful planning, collaboration, and a deep understanding of their contributions. The goal was simple: to give these incredible women the recognition they deserve and ensure they have a night to remember. Former police officer Jija Harisingh told *CE*, "It was a truly special event, remarkable for its selection of awardees from unexpected fields. What stood out was the recognition of individuals doing significant yet lesser-known work. The presentation was impactful, especially the decision to bring disabled employees on stage, which deeply resonated with everyone. The event felt uniquely heartfelt."

As awardee Nirupama Rajendra collected her award, she was asked how she would express the power of a woman as a Devi. Breaking into an impromptu dance, she said, "I moved in the classical natyashastra style and depicted how 'she' is a powerful person, but at the same time is compassionate, brings joy, love and hope to the world."

'Empowered women empower the world'

Attendees networked over cocktails and a gala dinner which was abuzz with a renewed sense of purpose with women (and men) empowered by the knowledge that they, too, can be part of this ongoing legacy of change. "Your achievements inspire us all and highlight the incredible impact of women in every field. I commend *TNIE* for creating this platform to celebrate their success and amplify their voices, paving the way for a more inclusive and empowered society," said Orli Weitzman, Consul General of Israel in Bengaluru.

The celebrations were also a reminder that the fight for equality and inclusion is ongoing, but with each woman who breaks new ground, the path becomes a little easier for the next. As Dineet Dadu, president of Millennium Mams', a financial literacy organisation for women, rightly said, "The night's message was loud and clear: Empowered women empower the world."

Winner's Words

Meena Ganesh, CEO of Portea Medical

My achievements are due to the support of family and colleagues from my multiple startups. I hope more women step forward to contribute and change the world because I believe women hold up half the sky.

Dr Pratima Murthy, director, NIMHANS

This recognition is not just mine but also belongs to the larger family I am privileged to be part of—the NIMHANS family. Together, we have been committed to advancing mental health care in India.

Anju Bobby George, two-time Olympian

I'm working with 16 talented girls, dreaming big to win India's first women's track and field Olympic medal. One of them has already secured a World Championship medal, and I believe by 2028, we'll see this dream come true. Thank you for supporting this journey.

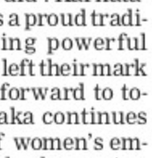
Sonali Sattar, founder, Grasshopper

I was surprised at first to hear that I was receiving this award, since my businesses operate on a small scale. It gives me a great sense of validation to be noticed for my focus on quality over quantity.

Pavithra Muddaya, co-founder of Vimor, handloom revivalist

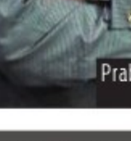
Thank you for the prestigious Devi Awards. This recognises my 50 years work in preserving our textile legacy, while creating livelihoods for weavers. I am honoured to be among the exceptional awardees.

Dr Vatsala Thirumalai, professor and dean, NCBS-TIFR



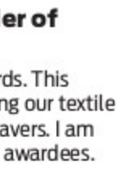
Science is all about teamwork, and while I stand here alone, it truly takes a village. I'm deeply grateful to the National Center for Biological Sciences (NCBS), research organisations, philanthropic donors, and my incredible family for their unwavering support. This award is dedicated to my parents, my husband, my darling daughter, and my siblings, whose love and encouragement have been my foundation.

Kavita Gupta Sabharwal, founder and managing trustee, Neev Schools



India is evolving, but education hasn't kept pace with this transformation. We are reimagining education to match a changing India. I am thrilled to accept this award. After my time in the pharmaceutical industry and at Harvard, I wanted to create a school that was neither purely academic nor alternative but something more—education that empowers and inspires. Thank you for recognising this vision.

Nirupama Rajendra, classical dancer

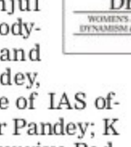


It's a special moment for me to be recognised for classical dance. Classical dance contributes so much to society, helping students find positivity and joy. In today's fast-paced world, it is a source of peace and grounding. This award is indeed a recognition for the entire dance form itself and its practitioners, who bring happiness and harmony to the world because people who practice classical dance are truly happy people and they do not harm the world.

Jahnavi Phalkey, founding director, Science Gallery

I am grateful for my incredible team, who make my work possible. My parents and my sisters have stayed by my side through my changing careers and locations. The husband has kept things funny, real, and continues to care for me for reasons still unknown to me!

Samhita Arni, celebrated author



Nothing would have been possible without the unflinching support, camaraderie, and inspiration I have from my women friends and colleagues. Writing can be an isolated journey, with its emotional tolls, and it's when I meet my readers, and I feel resonance with them, that it becomes worth it — and that's what keeps me going.

Arundhati Nag, theatre exponent, founder, Ranga Shankara

It's an award one respects, because the Express group is something one has respected, right from the Goenka inheritance that it has. It is with great respect that I have accepted this award because it's a reiteration that theatre is respected, and theatre is needed.

Alina Alam, founder, Mitti Café

I am grateful to Devi Awards for recognising this journey of inclusion and empowerment. When we think of having children, we often wish for a 'healthy' baby—but what does that mean? My mission is to show the world the magic of ability.

Winning hearts, changing minds

Santwana Bhattacharya, Editor of *The New Indian Express* Group, applauds Alina Alam

Alina Alam delivers her acceptance speech with her toddler in her arms

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

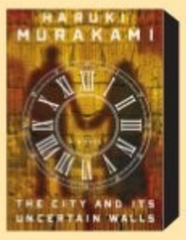
WHEN Alina Alam started Mitti Cafe in 2017, a non-profit committed to ensuring employment for special needs individuals, it seemed like an impossible task – she had no startup capital and several rejections under her belt. "90 per cent of our equipment, right from spoons, second-hand fridge, oven and tissue papers were donated by people like you," she said. Seven years later, she is a successful entrepreneur and activist with her chain employing over 5,000 differently-abled individuals at 47 outlets across India.

Alam, with one adorable toddler in her arms and expecting another, took to stage alongside her husband and seven employees to accept the Devi Awards instituted by *The New Indian Express* Group. The 29th edition of the awards, which took place in the city on Saturday saw 12 outstanding women from fields including dance, entrepreneurship, sports, theatre, and more, recognised for their achievements

In her powerful yet heartfelt acceptance speech, she made a strong case for social change to ensure a life of dignity for people with disabilities. She said, "The problem isn't that there are over a billion people with disabilities in the world but the disability in our perception that stops us from showing the world the magic in their abilities." In a touching moment towards the end of her speech, Alam shared the news of two employees with dwarfism, Roopa and Byrappa's, upcoming nuptials. After the cruel revelation that naysayers had told Byrappa that he would never find love, the couple's triumphant story made the audience erupt in applause.

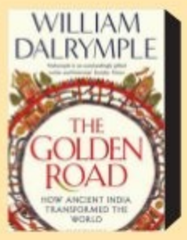
Shalini Manglani, board-certified celebrity nutritionist, who was present at the event, said, "The presentation of Alina Alam and the Mitti Cafe family, resplendent and proud in yellow, was so moving and was the highlight of the evening for me." Another notable guest, private investor Bindu Chandra, said, "It was the most wonderful thing that anybody can do as a human being. It really touched everyone's hearts – I had tears in my eyes."

BOOK NOOK



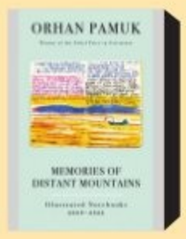
The City and Its Uncertain Walls
By Haruki Murakami

The story begins with a nameless young couple: a boy and a girl, teenagers in love. One day, she disappears, and her absence haunts him for the rest of his life.



The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World
By William Dalrymple

The book highlights India's oft-forgotten position as a crucial economic and civilisational hub at the heart of the ancient and early medieval history of Eurasia.



Memories of Distant Mountains
By Orhan Pamuk

For many years, Orhan Pamuk kept a record of his daily thoughts and observations, entering them in small notebooks and illustrating them with his own paintings. This book combines those notebooks into one volume. He writes about his travels around the world, his family, and his complex relationship with his home country, Turkey.

The Women
By Kristin Hannah

This is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country have too often been forgotten.

HOLIDAY SPIRIT

A child decorates the Christmas tree at the Christkindlesmarkt, a premiere German Christmas market at Jayamahal Palace Grounds | ALLEN EGENUS E J

QUICKFIX

UNNAKAYA

INGREDIENTS

- **Banana:** 4
- **Cashew nut:** 1/4 cup
- **Cardamom powder:** 1/2 tsp
- **Ghee:** 1 tbsp
- **Raisin:** 2 tbsp
- **Grated coconut:** 1.5 cups
- **Sugar:** 1/4 cup

METHOD

- In a steamer, place four medium-ripe bananas and steam them for 10 minutes on medium-high flame.
- Peel and mash them completely.
- In a pan, add ghee, cashews, and sauté for 30 seconds on medium flame. Add raisins and sauté for another 20 seconds.
- Add grated coconut and sauté for 2 minutes on medium flame. Add sugar and cardamom powder. Combine them well for 2 minutes.
- Grease your hand and take a portion of the mashed banana, flatten it, fill it with coconut mixture, and shape it into an unnakaya.
- Deep fry in med-high flame until it turns golden brown.

Contributed by **Mymoona Syed Mohammed**, Kochi

DR VIVEK ARORA

drvivekarora@hotmail.com

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.

I have adopted a four-year-old rabbit who has always lived alone. I've read that bunnies prefer to have a friend, would it be a good idea to get him a buddy or is it best to keep him solo?

Getting a buddy for your rabbit can be a great idea! Rabbits are social animals and often enjoy the company of another bunny. However, it's important to introduce them slowly to make sure they get along. A good way to start is to find a bunny

ASK AN XPERT

that matches your rabbit's personality and energy level. If you decide to get a second rabbit, be patient during their introduction. If he seems happy and comfortable on his own, it's also okay to keep him solo, as long as you spend plenty of time with him.

FITBIT

SUKHASANA VARIATION ARMS KNEES
(EASY POSE VARIATION ARMS KNEES)

This Easy Pose Variation Arms Knees is a variation of Sukhasana (Easy Pose). It is a very common practice to meditate and perform pranayama as the palms resting on the respective knees facilitate sitting taller with a straight back and spine for a longer duration. This is a symmetrical pose and the easy crossed legs allow you to follow the higher yogic practices as comfort and balance are prerequisites and settling down in a comfortable position. It is the safest way to achieve a sense of balance and stability. This is included in a base yoga pose, which is considered as a foundation pose to set an intention to follow any yoga style or sequence.

STEPS

- Releasing the body from Side Fetal Pose, sit comfortably in Sukhasana on the yoga mat.
- Rest your plams, either in chin or jnana mudra, on the respective knees while having controlled and rhythmic breathing.
- Ending the sequence with breathing techniques is important to calm the sympathetic nervous system. It also reduces the stress and adrenaline level and improves the functioning of the various organs related to the secretion of the hormones.
- Make sure you are seated in Sukhasana, and then take 8 rounds of breaths. Bring the body to relax along with the breathing while you watch the air fill the abdomen.

LIMITATIONS

- Students who have injuries at the knee, hip, lower back, ankle, hamstrings, or have undergone any knee, abdominal, or hip surgeries, should take the advice of a yoga instructor before performing this asana.
- If anyone has a knee replacement surgery, he should not practise this asana.
- People with knee arthritis, especially the senior citizens, or with pain in the knees, hips, lower back, or ankle, use the support of the pillow or folded blanket. If they prefer to practise sitting on the chair, it is also advisable.

BENEFITS

- Helps strengthen the spine, stretch the knees and ankles.
- Helps bring stability to the body.
- Facilitates soft and smooth deep breathing by filling in maximum air into the lungs.
- It is the most commonly practised and essential posture in yoga.
- Keep the facial muscles and eyes relaxed, shoulders down and rolled back, spine erect.
- This pose develops concentration or focus of the practitioners for more challenging poses.
- Helps relax the body and release stress from the mind.
- Aids in curing the stiffness in the spine and shoulders.
- Increases the capacity in the lungs and is known to be therapeutic for asthma and other respiratory disorders.
- Helps keep the body balanced for the pranayama or meditation practices.
- Helps settle into your practice with a sense of stability and balance.
- This is more helpful to keep the mind attentive and alert, when practised.
- At the end of the session, it can help to cool the mind and body down.
- This pose can be included in the night yoga sequence to fight insomnia and promote sound sleep.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Timeless Grace

Attend this year's Kalandam festival to be a part of celebrating India's rich artistic heritage. Showcasing over 30 exceptional dancers, this festival will showcase elegant dancescapes in a grand display of creativity and tradition.

WHEN: December 3, 6pm
WHERE: Ravindra Kalakshetra, Sampangi Ramanagara
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Salsa Swing

Unleash your inner dancer with this 21-day social dancing salsa festival. Learn the fundamentals of Salsa while swaying to the best music.

WHEN: December 2, 8pm
WHERE: shArA - Salsa & Latin Dance Institute, Jayanagar
DETAILS: allevents.in

Comedy Night

Soothe your Monday blues with Delhi comic **Onkar Yadav**'s set. Sit back and enjoy his funny take on breaking free and expressing his true self in this night full of laughter and fun.

WHEN: December 2, 8pm
WHERE: The Mad Bunker, Indiranagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Footwear Flair

Join in for a fun sneaker art workshop to unleash the creative sneakerhead in you. Craft your own unique pair of sneakers from scratch.

WHEN: December 5, 4pm
WHERE: P1 Lounge and Bar, Mahadevpura
DETAILS: insider.in

Theatre Magic

Experience the theatrical magic in this Kannada drama, *Ooru Keri*, based on the life of dalit poet, Siddalingaiah. Learn about the fallacies of caste and his journey towards empowerment.

WHEN: December 3, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: rangashankara.org

Orchestral Odyssey

Experience a magical night of orchestral serenade with Delhi Improviser's Orchestra featuring **Raymond Macdonald**. Whether it's sarod or saxophone, this concert is perfect to enjoy the blend of local beats with international music.

WHEN: December 3, 7.30pm
WHERE: Panchavati, Malleswaram
DETAILS: blrhubba.in

Handicraft Exhibition

Visit a vibrant exhibition featuring art and craft, jewellery, home decor and much more. Shop handcrafted products and experience the traditions of each Indian state.

WHEN: December 3, 10.30am onwards
WHERE: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road
DETAILS: allevents.in

ART CORNER

CASTING LIGHT

'In lights of fireflies' by Tito Stanley SJ captures the loneliness of the night glow with oil on canvas

Documenting HERSTORY

Through *Suraiya is a Country*, Diya Naidu offers a poignant reminder of how deeply interconnected we are — across generations, identities, and histories

POOJA DAS

OUR bodies keep score with everything that happens to us. They don't just store our scars and wounds from the past but also cradle every memory, every fleeting whisper that carries us through our lives. **Diya Naidu**, an internationally acclaimed choreographer and performer has dedicated her life's work to allowing these layered voices to speak through her body, delving deeply into the complexities of human connection and experience. Her latest work, *Suraiya is a Country*, is no exception. Staged recently at Medai-The Stage, Koramangala, and Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, this evocative and innovative performance aims to explore how personal narratives influence our understanding of history, identity, and the possibilities of the future. "I've always been drawn to real, raw conversations – not just as a way of connecting, but as a medium in itself. The more I engaged with meaningful conversations, the more I realised that they are a skill, a form of art. It's not something to be taken lightly," shares Naidu.

At its core, *Suraiya is a Country* is a deeply personal project inspired by Naidu's close relationship with her maternal grandmother, Suraiya, whose rich stories bridged personal memory and pivotal historical events. "We were very close – almost like best friends," she adds. "Before she passed away, I started recording our conversations. At first, I did it secretly, but she kind of used to know. She laughed at me and even scolded me but those recordings became invaluable after she was gone – they were my way of holding on to her."

When she started recording these conversations, it was not with the intention of creating a performance, but as she delved deep into her memories, it became clear that it holds a special place in today's socio-political climate. "My family is quite diverse – my mother is Muslim, my father is Hindu; my mother is from Bengal, and my father is from Andhra. So, it's shocking to me when people define India by any single religious, regional, or caste identity," says Naidu. Her grandmother lived through some of India's most turbulent times, including Partition, Independence, and the Bangladesh War. "Her stories were deeply personal but also held a mirror to these massive socio-political shifts. These recordings became even more relevant in today's political climate, where there's an ongoing debate about the country's identity."

The performance draws on conversations with about 15 elderly individuals, including Naidu's grandmother. "I've always felt drawn to older generations," she says. "There's a certain honesty they carry. They also have an intimacy with death, which brings some clarity and freedom."

Having understood the urgency of recording and archiving these stories, Naidu applied for a grant to fund the project, which she got from the Unrehearsed Residency Artist Residency Programme by the Nava Dance Theatre based in the USA. The result is an intimate and immersive piece. "The three main mediums are conversation, movement, and audience interaction," explains Naidu. "The audience doesn't know what's going to happen next – that element of unpredictability keeps it alive." Audience members were invited to select numbers that correspond to specific stories, making each performance a unique experience. "It's like creating a version of reality that exists for just this evening – an ephemeral world of stories," she says.

A still from a previous performance of *Suraiya is a Country* | ARVIND SRIDHAR

Intergenerational memory

At the heart of *Suraiya is a Country* is the idea of the body as an archive. Naidu elaborates, "Our bodies store everything — every injury, every hug, every act of violence or freedom, every inherited genetic memory. These stories are stored in us, and when the environment is right, they pour out like a Google search bringing up hundreds of results." Delving into the concept of intergenerational memory, she explores how trauma, survival, and joy are also passed down genetically. "My grandmother's life, her wounds, and her joys — they live in me physically, even if I didn't experience them firsthand," she reflects.

SMART ADS

TOURS

6 days Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Shopping Festival
11 days Vietnam, Cambodia Special
7 days memorable Japan Cherry blossom Special
8 days Nepal Special (Muktinath)
18 days UK, Europe
6 days Bali, Indonesia
7/11 days Singapore, Malaysia Thailand
20 days Australia, New Zealand
5/9 days Kashi, Ayodhya
9 days Gujarat Special.

Contact
ORCHID TRAVEL AND TOURS
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-04
99000 807 96
99000 93613

For SMART ADS & INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor (@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales, and marketing with well-known hotels and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress @ gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,500 from Smoor Chocolates (dine-in only)**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Bathua; 2) Miyeok; 3) Lohikeitto

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Neha Sharma
2) Chandana N
3) Karan Gupta

Ph.D. Awarded to Shamashad Begum ("Shama")

Shamashad Begum, daughter of Ameer Ilahi & Sahera Begum, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Aviation Management by CMJ University, Meghalaya. The research was conducted under the guidance of Dr.Sumeet Suseelan, with the thesis titled "Impact of Airport Structure & Technology in the Growth of Aviation Industry : Analytical Study". The degree was conferred on 15th November, 2024. -ADVT-

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FROM COMPASSION TO ACTION ANBU URAI TRANSFORMS LIVES IN FRAZER TOWN

The Social Work Department of Kristu Jayanti College orchestrated a transformative social action project titled "Anbu Urai" on November 25, 2024, aimed at uplifting 45 marginalized families in Frazer Town, Bangalore. This initiative catered to the winter needs of 150 individuals by distributing customized essentials, including jamkhanas, sweaters, and blankets.

Under the guidance of Dr. Jonas Richard A, Head of the Department of Social Work, Dr. Winnie Joyce A, and Dr. Sathish Kumar R, Dr Bijayalaxmi Sahoo, the programme was facilitated by student coordinators - Ms. Angelin Baby James, Ms. Baby Rosangzuali, Ms. Cindrella Johnson, Ms. Deborah Daniel, and Ms. Kalpana G, the project exemplified the ethos of community engagement and compassion.

The initiative, made possible through crowdfunding and strategic networking, sought to mitigate the challenges faced by economically disadvantaged families. This act of solidarity and care garnered accolades from the department, the community, and benefactors alike, underscoring the power of collective action in fostering social change.

advt

PROJECT SANJEEVANI

A STEP TOWARDS NEW LIFE

The students from the Department of Social Work, Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous,Bangalore, organised a Social Action Research Initiative named Project SANJEEVANI meaning "A new life, or a renewed life", which was led by Ms. Riya Shaji Mathew, and other members, Ms. Meghana, Ms Aleesha, Ms Catherine and Ms. Sania for the Koracha and Nayika Community settled in the area around TC Palya, Bangalore on the 26th of November, 2024. The students raised funds by themselves, which amounted upto Rs. 100,000/- for this project. They prepared packets including some daily essentials (such as Rice, Dal, Oil, Brush, Paste and Soap) and some winter essentials (such as Blankets and sleeping mats) and distributed them among 35 families. This project was a small step towards bringing a smile on the faces of the people in the community and it was well-received by them. The community members extended the heartfelt gratitude towards the students, the Department and the college for taking this initiative, towards the community's welfare.

advt

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Ramganesh R,** R/at No.48, Kamadenu Kutira Apts, Bhoopsandra Main Road, Bangalore-94., state that my name is mentioned as **Ramganesh R** in all documents & **Ram Ganesh** in my Passport. I duly swear that both the said names are pertaining to the one and the same person. vide affidavit dated 28.11.2024 sworn before advocate and notary V Anjanappa, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JYOTHI HEBBALLI,** W/o Sri Basavaraj Hebballi, aged about 50 years, residing at House No. 632/A, 11th Main, 3rd Stage, 1st Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JYOTHI SHRI J M** to **JYOTHI HEBBALLI** henceforth I shall be known and called as **JYOTHI HEBBALLI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30/11/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **L. VEENA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRASANTH TATIGIRI** S/o Balaswamy Tatigiri, R/o Flat No. B 317, Desai Grandeur Ambedkar Nagar Road, Vijayanagar, Whitefield Bangalore – 560066, have permanently changed my name from **PRASANTH TATIGIRI** to **PRASHANTH TATIGIRI** vide affidavit dated 26/11/2024 sworn before Notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Jaya** holder of passport bearing **No. E8849792** w/o Byrappa.Aaged62years,residing at No. 19/A, Jayasamruddhi, 3rd cross, Ramaiah Reddy layout, Chikkabanaswadi, Bengaluru-560043, have changed my name as **Jaya** from **Jaya Byrappa.** Vide Affidavit dated 30/11/2024 before Notary **B. Hanumantharaya.**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KODIRA POOVI ACHAIAH,** Residing at No.28, Apoorva Sree Apartment, 3rd Cross, Bhoopasandra, RMV 2nd stage, Bengaluru - 560094. Hereby declare that I have changed my mentally Retarded son's name from **KODIRA ACHAIAH KUSHALAPPA** to **VIKRANTH KUSHALAPPA** vide affidavit dated 30.11.2024 sworn to before Notary **T C THIMMARAJA**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MAHIMA .N,** W/o Mahesh Babu .S.R, age 46 years, R/at No. 44, 4th Cross, 3d Main, Near Railway Gate, Challaaghatta, Kumbalgodu, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560 060 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHOBHA .N** to **MAHIMA .N,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MAHIMA .N** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30th November 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **T.C.THIMMARAJA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **T. MURALI, MURALI T, THIRUMALA MURALI AND MURALI THIRUMALA ALIAS MURALI THIRUMALA RAO,** S/o S. Thirumala Rao, aged about 64 years, residing at no. 001, Sri Guruvas Apartments, No. 15/1, 19th Cross Road, next to Kasi Mutt, Malleshwaram, Malleshwaram west, Bangalore - 560055, have changed my name and hence forth will be called as **SRI. MURALI THIRUMALA RAO** vide affidavit dated 27-11-2024. sworn before Advocate and Notary **P. ANURADHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SINDUSHREE KURUBARAHALLI SHIVAMADEGOWDA,** W/o Adithya Chandraiah, R/o No. 228/31, 1st Main Srinidhi Layout, Chunchaghata Konanakunte, Bangalore – 560062 have permanently changed my name from **SINDUSHREE KURUBARAHALLI SHIVAMADEGOWDA** to **SINDHUSHREE KURUBARAHALLI SHIVAMADEGOWDA,** vide affidavit dated 26/11/2024, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KUSHAL .S**, resident of No. 5, CIL Layout Main Road, 4th Cross, Vishveshwaraiah Layout, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560 032, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KUSHAL** to **KUSHAL .S** vide affidavit dated 29.11.2024 sworn to before T.V. Chandra Shekara Reddy, Advocate and Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOUNAPPA B PATTAR,** age 45 years, R/at No. 19, 1st Cross, New Timbar Layout, Raghav Nagar Srinagar, VTC: Bengaluru South, PO: Government Electric Factory, Sub: District: Bengaluru South-560 026 do hereby declare that my son's correct name is **RAKSHITH MOUNAPPA PATTAR** and the same is mentioned in Aadhar and Birth Certificate, but in his school Vijaya Bharathi Vidyalaya records, his name is wrongly mentioned as **RAKSHITH PATTAR** instead of **RAKSHITH MOUNAPPA PATTAR,** vide affidavit dated 21-11-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.C. GOWTHAMI** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRABHAKARAN PP PULLAM POLAVIL**, resident of No. 67, Prasadam, 2nd Cross, Lakkappa Layout, Singapura, Vidyaranyapura post, Bangalore - 560097, have changed my name from **PRABHAKARAN PP PULLAM POLAVIL** to **PRABHAKARAN P P,** vide Affidavit Dated 28-11-2024 Before Advocate and Notary **S PRAKASH,** Reg No. 7865/09 Bangalore, Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ARHA VARANI,** S/o Anand Prakash Varani and Dikshita Varani, residing at: D005 Keerthi Chalet,Coconut Groove Layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru : 560043, I have changed my name from **(Old Name) "Arha Baruah"** to **(New Name) "Arha Varani"**. Henceforth, I would like to continue my name as **"Arha Varani"** in my all future documents. Vide affidavit dated **04.06.2024** sworn before **S Subashini,** B.Sc.LLB Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru -560049.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BALASWAMI TATIGIRI** S/o Shouri, R/o Flat No. B 317 Desai Grandeur Ambedkar Nagar Road, Vijayanagar, Whitefield Bangalore – 560066, have permanently changed my name from **BALASWAMI TATIGIRI** to **BALASWAMY TATIGIRI** vide affidavit dated 26/11/2024 sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **HARITIMA DWIVEDI,** D/o. Mr. Umesh Kumar Dwivedi, Mrs. USHA DWIVEDI (Mother) Indian, residing at 206, Arunodaya Nest, Kaggadaspura Main Road, CV Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560093, do hereby declare that the **HARITIMA KUMARI** and **HARITIMA DWIVEDI** is identical same person in status and in LAW accordingly, henceforward, vide affidavit dated 29.11.2024, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BASAPPA YESHWANTAPPA REVASHETTI,** aged about 87 years, S/O Late, Yeshwantappe Revashetti. I am residing at #4, "ANAND NIKETAN, 1st Main, 1st Cross, MICO Layout, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560076. do hereby state and declare that my names **Basavaraj, Basvaraj, Basavraj, Basawraj should be BASAPPA. And YESHWANTAPPA is spelt as Yashwantappa and REVASHETTI is spelt as Rewashetti, Revashetty.** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my name in future as **BASAPPA YESHWANTAPPA REVASHETTI** vide affidavit dated 29-11-2024 sworn to before notary C.N. Balasubramanyam, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NIRMALA RANI BHAGYA RAJ,** R/o No. 228/1, Ground Floor, Bhovi Colony, R M Nagar, Bengaluru-560 016 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NIRMALA RANI** to **NIRMALA RANI BHAGYA RAJ,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **NIRMALA RANI BHAGYA RAJ** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30th Nov. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **G. RAJENDRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Dikshita Varani,** Residing at: D005 Keerthi Chalet, Coconut Groove Layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru-560043. Declare that I wish to change my Son's name from **"Trinoy Baruah"** to **"Trinoy Varani",** vide affidavit dated **04.06.2024,** sworn before advocate and notary **S Subashini,** B.Sc, L.L.B, Govt. of India, Bangalore-560049.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **BHAGAT SINGH** is father of No. 4203589H HAV Rajendra Singh Residing at Village Ghugti, Post Office Deghat (Ghugti), Tehsil Bhikysain, Distict Almora, State Uttarakhand, Pin- 263659 have changed my Name from **BHAGAT SINGH** to **BHAGVAT SINGH** vide affidavit dated 26.11.2024 Sworn before Notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Hypha Amrin Mulla,** W/o Sayyed Aadil Peerzade, aged 29 years, R/at # 302, Regal Haven Apts,10, Rogers Road Richards Town Bengaluru-560005, permanent resident of Plot No 1A, RS No 46/1, near Rehamaniya Masjid, Sangameshhwar Nagar, Belagavi 590010 do hereby declare that after marriage I changed my name to **"Hypha Amrin Peerzade"** vide Affidavit dated 28.10. 2024 sworn to before S.R. Nanjunda Swamy Advocate and Notary Govt. of India Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **SRI.MANJAPPA.B,** aged about 52 years, S/o. Bheemappa, residing at: No.560, Flat No.FF1, Srinivasapura, BDA 11th Block, BSK 6th Stage, Near Adithya Bakery, Srinivaspura Cross, Kengeri Bangalore- 560060, hereby declare that my father's names **BHEEMAPPA and MARIBHEEMAPPA** belongs to one and the same person, vide affidavit dated 29-11-2024 sworn to before notary S.R. Thulasikrishna, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JOGESH KUMAR,** S/o Basant Kumar, resident at Plot No. 194/6, Flat No. 301, 3rd Main Road, 5th Cross, Chamarajpet-560018, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JOGESH BASANT JAIN KUMAR** to **JOGESH KUMAR** henceforth I shall be known and called as **JOGESH KUMAR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30/11/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAMATHA .N.K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **UMA CHOUDHARY** W/O **VINOD KUMAR** R/O. Flat no 306. DS Max Spring Nest, 5th'A' Crs. Near Shipla Bakery, Rajjana Layout, Horamavu, Bengaluru-43.That I have changed my name from **UMA CHOUDHARY** to **UMA CHAUDHARY** due to mismatch of my name with my husband Service record and Aadhar Card and Pan Card that my date of birth is 06.07.1968. All the names that belong to me **UMA CHOUDHARY** and **UMA CHAUDHARY** are one and the same. I will be known by the correct name **UMA CHAUDHARY** in future for all purposes. Sworn Vide affidavit dated: 29.11.2024 before the Notary A R MUNEER AHMED at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHAN DAKARE,** Service No.16116702A, L/NK, residing at No.455, Mhalunge Galli, Boragaon, Nippani, Belagavi-591216, have changed my Minor Daughter's name from **MANASVI** to **MANASVI MOHAN DAKARE** vide affidavit dated 28.11.2024 sworn before Notary M.Narendran., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KSHAMA CHANVI** aged about 26 years, D/o. Sudha Suresh, Residing at: No. 402, Sri Krishna Paradise, Baba Nagar 1st Main, Bagaluru Main Road, Bangalore, Karnataka-560063, have changed my name from **CHANDANA SURESH M** to **KSHAMA CHANVI,** vide affidavit dated 30/11/2024 sworn to before G.R.Ravichandra Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, Mr. MOHAMMED SUHAIL and Mrs. THASEEN residing at No. 24/2-1, 6th Cross, 4th Main Road, Wilson Garden, Laljinagar, Lakkasandra, Bangalore, Karnataka 560030, We have changed our Minor Daughter's name from **TEBAH to TAIBA FATHIMA S** vide Affidavit dated 30/11/2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary, C.N. Balasubramanyam, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JHALAK MEHTA,** D/o Hitesh Mehta, resident at OC 1204, Shapoorji Pallonji Parkwest No. 1/1, Binnypet, Bengaluru-560023, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **JHALAK** to **JHALAK MEHTA** henceforth I shall be known and called as **JHALAK MEHTA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30/11/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAMATHA .N.K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **KRITHIKA RAJAPPA** W/o Balachandiran Magalingam R/o Flat No.106, Mahaveer Rose Apartment, 28/5, Kodichikkanahalli, Bangalore - 560076, have permanently changed my name from **KRITHIKA RAJAPPA** to **KRITHIKA BALACHANDIRAN** vide affidavit dated 29/11/2024 sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **BHUBAN SUBEDI,** aged about 39 years, S/o. Ganga Bahadur Subedi, R/of Karibil Nepali, Kawripathar, Kawri Pathar, Haiem, Biswanath District, Biswanath, Assam-784 170. I state that, in my Aadhaar Card my name is mentioned as **'BHUBAN SUBEDI'**, & in my Bank Passbook it has wrongly mentioned as **'BHUBAN SUBERI'**. Hereby declare that, **'BHUBAN SUBEDI'** & **"BHUBAN SUBERI"** names are one & the same and it refers to me only, vide Affidavit dated 30.11.2024, Sworn before Advocate and Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mrs. REENA CHANNE GOWDA,** Residing at No.8, Naveena, 1st Main, Manjunathanagar, Ittamadu, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru - 560085. Hereby declare that I have changed my minor son's name from **EKANSH CHANNEGOWDA AYAPPA** to **EKANSH CHANNE GOWDA** vide affidavit dated 30-11-2024 sworn to before Notary **T C THIMMARAJA**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **UDDANDAM SHASHI MOUNIKA,** Residing at C/o Uddandam Sai Pratap, No.41/133-6-1, Sankarapuram, Petrol Bunk Street, VTC: Cuddapah, State: Andhra Pradesh-516002. Do Hereby declare as per my Aadhar Card my name is mentioned as **VALLEPU MANASA** and in my Marks Card my name is mentioned as **UDDANDAM SHASHI MOUNIKA** Both the names belong to me only henceforth my name will be **UDDANDAM SHASHI MOUNIKA** only in all my records and correspondence. Vide affidavit dated 06.09.2024 sworn to before Notary **Ravichandra Reddy**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AJITH KARIMBIL,** S/o Vishwanath, aged about 40 years, R/at No. B509, 5th Floor, Elegant Embassy, North Jakkur Main Road, Raithara Santhe Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **AJITH KARIMBIL** to **AJITH VISHWANATH** henceforth I shall be known and called as **AJITH VISHWANATH** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 30/11/2024 sworn before Advocate and Notary **P. ANURADHA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHAYESTA HASHMI** (OR) **SHRESHTA JAGADISH** OR **SHRESTA,** W/o Jagadish, R/o No. 24, 4th Cross, Basaveshwara Nagar Nanda Sri Kalyana Matapa, Hosakote – 562114, have permanently changed my name from **SHAYESTA HASHMI** (OR) **SHRESHTA JAGADISH** OR **SHRESTA** to **SHRESTA JAGADISH** vide affidavit dated 26/11/2024, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **I, KSHARVAN SINGH** S/o. Jabarsinghajabraram Purohit, aged about 22 years, residing at No 176, 2nd Floor, Kumbarpet Main Road, Ram Medical, SJP Road, Bengaluru -560 002, have changed my name from **SHARVAN SINGH.J** to **SHARVAN SINGH,** vide affidavit dated 30/11/2024 sworn to before S.Eswara Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MOHAMMAD NABIL NASEEM SHAIKH,** Residing at # 720, 2nd Floor, 9th Cross, 6th Main, 3rd Block, 1st Stage, HBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560043, Have changed my name from **MOHAMED NABIL NASEEM SHAIKH** to **MOHAMMAD NABIL NASEEM SHAIKH.** Vide affidavit Dated 28.11.2024 sworn before Notary & Advocate S SUBASHINI, Medahalli, Bengaluru.

...says director Nagaraja Somayaji about *Maryade Prashne* as he discusses the challenge of portraying Bengaluru's middle-class life, with casting director Sunayana Suresh emphasising the importance of authentic, relatable actors

Nagaraja Somayaji and Sunayana Suresh

A still from the film

'BENGALURU HAS EVOLVED, AS HAVE ITS PEOPLE'

CE FEATURES

THE team behind *Maryade Prashne* is overjoyed with the overwhelming response from audiences, especially as the film, released on November 22, continues its successful run into the second week. Debutant director Nagaraja Somayaji, who also wrote the film's story, is particularly proud of how it captures the essence of middle-class life in Bengaluru. The film explores the joys and struggles of this lifestyle, bringing to life the vibrant neighbourhoods of the city. One theme that stands out for Nagaraja is the issue of road rage, which has become an all too common problem in Bengaluru.

"A topic like road rage, which often dominates news and crime reports, takes on a different dimension when portrayed on the big screen. In a typical crime story, the focus is on the incident itself, the people involved, and how the police solve the case. But in cinema, it's about the characters—their emotions, reactions, and the layers of consequences they face," Nagaraja explains.

He's grateful that the audience has connected with the middle-class life in Chamrajpet, a South Bengaluru neighbourhood. "People found it relatable, and the reactions from family audiences have been encouraging," says Nagaraja. He believes the strength of the film lies in its writing. "When it came to dialogue writing, I knew I had to take the lead. I wanted to describe key situations in just one or two lines, capturing the essence without overcomplicating things. Since I developed the story, the dialogue had to align with it—authentic, simple, and grounded."

Nagaraja adds, "When my mother brought me to Bengaluru at 24, she said, 'Look at how this city will grow.' Bengaluru has certainly evolved, as have its people. My own experiences in the city helped me tell this story in a more genuine way."

The ensemble cast of *Maryade Prashne* has been another standout element, with performances by Rakesh Adiga, Sunil Raoh, Poornachandra Mysore, Teju Belawadi, Prabhu Mundkur, Rekha Kudligi, and Shine Shetty all receiving praise. According to Nagaraja, the casting was spot on, thanks to Sunayana Suresh, a journalist turned casting director.

"I was involved from the beginning of the film," says Sunayana. "Nagaraja and Pradeep shared the story with me, and we knew we needed actors who could represent both the affluent and working-class communities of Bengaluru. The challenge was ensuring that each character felt authentic. With the positive reviews about the casting, I'm proud to see it paying off. Every actor, from Teju Belawadi to Shine Shetty, brought something special to the film. I'm also happy that Rekha Kudligi and Nagendra Shaji have won the family audience's hearts."

Sunayana also highlighted the growing importance of casting in Kannada cinema: "Pradeep's Sakkath Studio has shown how crucial casting is, and it's time for other film teams to prioritise it as well."

Xavier Samuel and Sonal Sehgal to star in *The Great Departure*

CE FEATURES

XAVIER Samuel and Sonal Sehgal are all set to headline *The Great Departure*, a film from director Pierre Filmon, a Camera d'Or nominee. Produced by Arvind Reddy under KVR Productions, the project recently wrapped filming in India and is currently in post-production. Sehgal penned the script during the lockdown, and it was originally titled Travellers.

The story delves into societal patriarchy, following a man and woman who meet by chance in Varanasi. Their shared road trip, filled with vastly different experiences, leads to an unexpected romance. Samuel, known for his roles in Twilight: Eclipse and Blonde, stars alongside Sehgal, who gained recognition in films like Aashayein.

The film also marks a significant milestone for KVR Productions, which is relaunching under the leadership of Arvind Reddy, the grandson of the iconic South Indian filmmaker KV Reddy.

Pierre Filmon is celebrated for his 2016 Camera d'Or-nominated documentary Close with Vilmos Zsigmond and his 2022 Venice-premiered film Jerry Schatzberg, Landscape Portrait.

Raj B Shetty's *Rudhiram* confirms release date

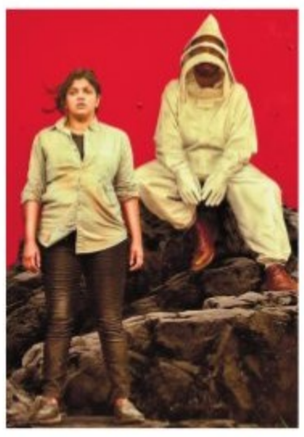
Aparna Balamurali and Raj B Shetty

CE FEATURES

RUDHIRAM, headlined by Kannada actor-director Raj B Shetty and Aparna Balamurali, has been confirmed to hit screens on December 13. The film directed by debutant Jisho Lon Antony promises to be an intense psychological thriller.

The makers recently released its teaser, featuring Raj B Shetty as a mysterious man and Aparna as a woman trapped in a house. Co-written by Jisho and Joseph Kiran George, the film reportedly follows the mysterious events happening in the life of a doctor.

Rudhiram has cinematography by Sajad Kaakku, editing by Bavan Sreekumar and music composed by 4Musics. Besides Malayalam, the film will also have dubbed versions in Kannada, Tamil and Telugu. It is produced by VS Lalan under the banner of Rising Sun Studio. *Rudhiram* was originally planned as Raj B Shetty's Malayalam debut, but the film's release got delayed due to various reasons. He has since appeared in Malayalam films like Turbo and Kondal.



'MY FIRST APPEARANCE WITH RAMYA GAVE WINGS TO MY CAREER'

...says actor Rashika Shetty, as she talks about her feature debut in Yogaraj Bhat's *Manada Kadalu*, in which she plays a cricketer

A SHARADHAA

RASHIKA Shetty, whose career started as a child artist, is now making her feature debut with director Yogaraj Bhat's *Manada Kadalu*. Reflecting on her early days, she recalls her first-ever screen appearance in the song 'Kande Kande Govindana' from *Tananam Tananam*, where she shared the screen with celebrated actor Ramya. "That was a defining moment for me," says Rashika. "When I saw Ramya and had the chance to be part of a song with her, I instantly felt the acting bug bit me. Since then, I've looked up to her as an inspiration for my acting career."

Hailing from Chikmagalur and now settling in Mysuru, Rashika's film work has brought her to Bengaluru. While she had always dreamt of being on the big screen, her journey also included roles in Telugu and Kannada serials. "I've always wanted to see myself on the big screen, and though I started with TV serials, it was a stepping stone to where I am now," she adds.

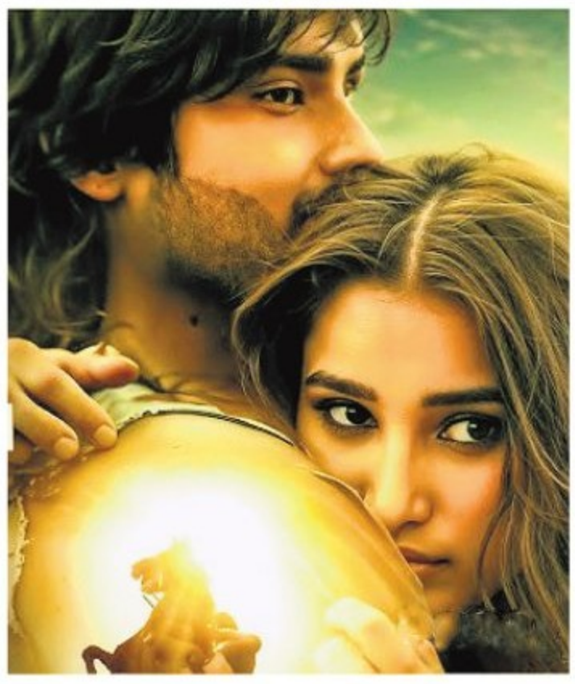
Her debut film, *Manada Kadalu*, gives her that first big break, as she stars alongside Sumukh and Anjali Anish. She speaks with excitement about the project: "I have always admired Yogaraj's films, from Mungaru Male to Gaalipata and Mugulu Nage. To have the opportunity to be a part of his film feels surreal," shares Rashika. This opportunity was facilitated by cinematographer Santhosh Rai Pathaje. "Santhosh sir clicked a few photos of me, which somehow ended up on Yogaraj Bhat's table. And like every newcomer, I was on cloud nine when I got a callback from his team. It felt like my dream was finally coming true," she says.

In *Manada Kadalu*, Rashika plays a cricketer—a character that required her to undergo serious physical training. "I had to practice cricket and even learn swimming for the role. It was a wonderful challenge," she explains. The shooting process, which spanned across various seasons—from rainy days to scorching summer heat and chilly winter—was equally intense. "The experience was unforgettable. We worked through all weather conditions, and the process was made even more special as we could recall the director's previous successful films," she shares.

Apart from *Manada Kadalu*, Rashika is also wrapping up another project, produced by Nagashree and directed by debutant Suprith, who previously worked as an assistant to director Prem. "I still have a few scenes and a couple of songs left to shoot for that film," she says, adding that she is also in the process of selecting her next big project. "Every step, every role, has brought me closer to where I am today," she says. "I'm waiting for *Manada Kadalu*'s release, as it could open up more opportunities for me. Once it's out, I'll be looking to make my next move," she concludes.

A still from the film

Ajay Devgn's nephew Aaman Devgan's *Azaad* gets release date



CE FEATURES

AJAY Devgn took to Instagram on Saturday to announce the release date of his nephew Aaman Devgan's first feature film *Azaad*. It will be released in theatres on January 17 next year. The film is helmed by Abhishek Kapoor, best known for *Kai Po Che*, and it also stars Raveena Tandon's daughter Rasha Thadani.

Ajay shared a new poster of the film featuring himself, Aaman and Rasha. He wrote in the caption, "Iss kahaani ka dil ek yodha hai, aur dhadkan (This story has a warrior and a heartbeat)- *Azaad*!"

Earlier this year, the makers dropped a teaser for the film that gave a glimpse into its world. Judging by the teaser trailer, the film seems to tell a story of an unlikely bond between a man and his horse.

Azaad is written by Ritesh Shah, Suresh Nair, and Abhishek Kapoor, as well as produced by Ronnie Screwvala and Pragya Kapoor.